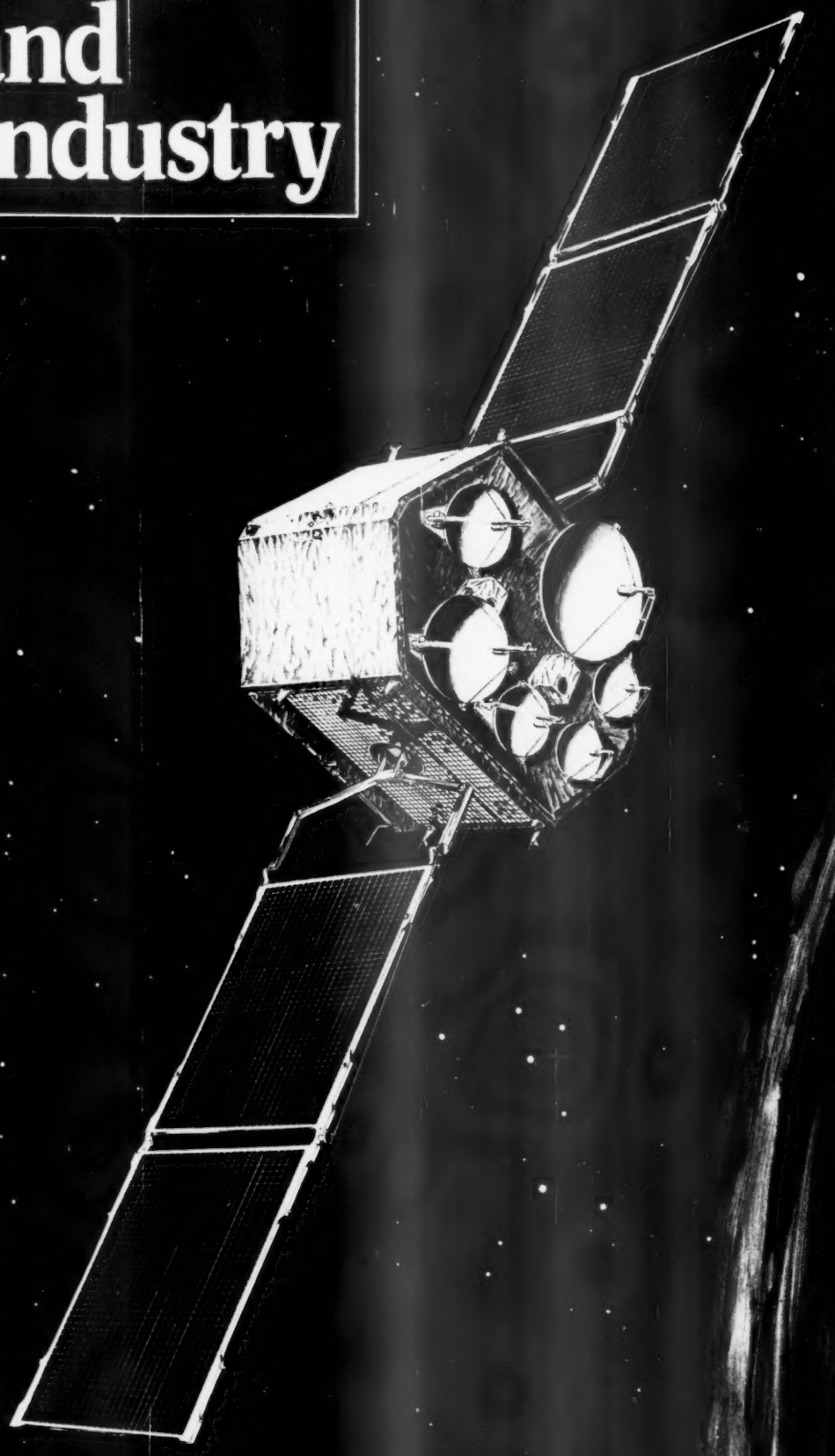
Trade and Industry

Britain in space



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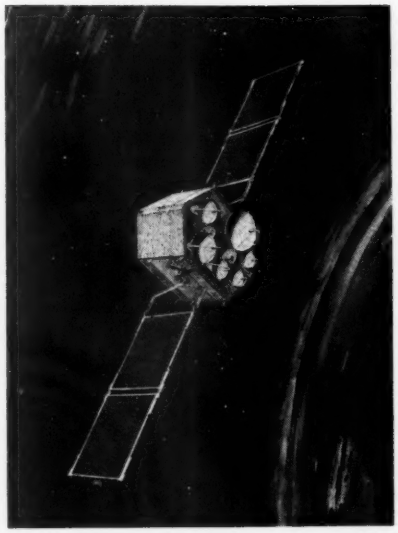
Trade and Industry

13 February 1976

News from the Departments of Industry·Trade·Prices & Consumer Protection



Hawker Siddeley Dynamics as prime contractor for the MESH consortium is working on a three year £25 million contract for the development and launch support of the Orbital Test Satellite (OTS). Details of British involvement in space are contained in an article on page 434.

Trade and Industry

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Home News

Selective Price Restraint Scheme—UK produced goods and services

Price Check – the popular name of the Government's new Selective Price Restraint Scheme – began at retail level last week.

The scheme is being backed by heavy national television and press advertising.

As confirmed in a statement made on 27 January by Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, co-operating manufacturers and retailers will agree not to increase the prices of a selected list of goods and services, many important to the family budget, by more than 5 per cent over six months.

The following is a summary of UK-produced goods and services included in the scheme.

This sign, with black lettering in a red triangle, will soon be seen in retail premises throughout the country. It is part of a merchandising kit, comprising stickers for displays, windows and doors, which is being distributed free to retailers under the Government's new Selective Price Restraint Scheme – popularly known as Price Check.

Food and drink
Standard bread (Great Britain only)
Liquid milk
Granulated sugar (2 lb. or 1 kilo bag)
Frozen peas
Many biscuits
Sweets and chocolates*
Tea (in packets)
Cornflakes and some other breakfast cereals
Beer including stout and lager*
Cider

Clothing, footwear and textiles
Lines of clothing including:
- Women's and girl's dresses, blouses, coats suits, slacks, skirts
- Men's and boy's jackets, trousers, suits, shirts
- Infants' and children's coats, dresses, trousers, romper-suits

Knitwear
Some lines of adults' and childrens' footwear
Lines of textiles including:
- Curtain materials
- Clothing materials
- Sheets
- Towels

Furniture
Most domestic furniture
Most beds and mattresses

Toiletries
All household soap
Smaller sizes of:
- Toilet soap and other domestic toiletries
- Toothpaste

Some razor packs and blades
A wide range of proprietary medicines
Women's sanitary protection (tampons)

Domestic appliances
A wide range of cookers, washing machines, dryers, irons, vacuum cleaners, kettles, electric blankets, refrigerators, freezers.
Domestic sewing machines.

Fuel
Domestic gas tariffs (Great Britain only)
Central heating oil
Paraffin

Do-it-yourself
Paint and varnish
Wallpapers (not vinyls)
A range of tools, electric and manual

Tobacco
Most cigarettes*
Most pipe and hand-rolling tobacco*

Out-of-doors and leisure
A range of garden tools, electric and manual
Cheaper cameras and most films
A wide range of prams and push chairs
Many toys and games
Budget-priced long playing records
Many car batteries
Some bicycles

Other goods
Electric light bulbs (60 watt)
A range of stationery and kitchen paper products
Matches
Heat resistant glass ovenware
Magazines, Scottish weekly newspapers and some monthly magazines
Most books in publishers' stocks

Services
Inland letter post up to 100g
Telephones and telegrams
Laundering and dry-cleaning of children's clothes
Cinema charges for children's matinees and concessionary prices for pensioners

* Weighted average basis for the category as a whole.

Safety of perambulators and pushchairs

Proposed safety requirements for perambulators and pushchairs were announced on 4 February by Alan Williams, Minister of State for Prices and Consumer Protection in reply to a Parliamentary Question by Ioan Evans (Aberdare). A first draft of regulations, to be made under the Consumer Protection Act 1961, has been circulated to interested bodies for comment.

The draft regulations, which will be made as soon as possible after consultations have been completed, include requirements relating to stability, efficiency of brakes, the provision of attachment points for safety harnesses and the adequacy of locking devices on folding perambulators and pushchairs and will give statutory support to the provisions of the relevant British Standards (BS 4139 and BS 4792). When they are made and in operation, it will be an offence for any person to sell or offer for sale in the course of a business in Great Britain any perambulator or pushchair which does not comply with them. They will be enforced by local weights and measures authorities.

Announcing the proposals Mr. Williams said, 'The regulations will be an important first step towards imposing more comprehensive safety requirements'.

Additional provisions now under consideration relate to:

1 additional stability tests which take account of the weight of shopping and the movement of a child
2 the hazard of falling hoods
3 an additional test for wheel security after bumping against kerbs and stairs and an extension of existing tests to take account of the fact that occupied perambulators and pushchairs will be pushed up and down stairs
4 account being taken of the weight of shopping in the brakes test
5 the toxicity of paint.

The draft regulations are being sent to consumer and safety bodies, local authority associations and organisations representing all sections of the trade. Copies are available on request from the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection, Room 133, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET to any other bodies or persons who wish to know about or comment on the proposed safety requirements.

Notes

Information obtained during the course of a feasibility study of the collection of data about home accidents has shown that most of the accidents involving perambulators or pushchairs are caused by children falling out of them – presumably because safety harnesses have not been used or properly fastened.

There have been some fatal accidents when folding perambulators and pushchairs have collapsed when the locking device has been inadvertently operated (for example, by a child playing with the securing rings on either side of the handle). In some of these accidents, the handle has folded back forcibly across the child's neck, causing death. The provision relating to locking devices will prevent accidents of this kind.

Stability and efficiency of brakes are clearly important and although there is little evidence that perambulators or pushchairs have been defective in these respects it is considered necessary to give statutory support to the provisions relating to stability and brakes in the British Standards.

Copies of the British Standards BS 4139: 1967 (perambulators) and BS 4792:1972 (pushchairs) are obtainable from the Sales Department of the British Standards Institution, 101 Pentonville Road, London N1 9ND.

Consumer Credit Act licences – public register opened

A public register which discloses what has happened and is happening about licensing under the Consumer Credit Act opened on 2 February at the Office of Fair Trading, Chancery House, 53 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1SP. At the same time, regional facilities for the public to know what is on the register opened in Belfast, Edinburgh and Cardiff.

The Act's licensing system involves virtually every business in the field of credit and hire, and 2 February was the starting date for applications to be made for the first group of licences – covering credit reference agencies, debt collectors, debt adjusters and debt counsellors. They have until 31 May to apply and will face serious legal and commercial consequences if they do not have a licence by 3 August.

The public register at Chancery House will include information about applications for licences which are under consideration, whether a person or firm is licensed (and if so for what types of credit activity), what decisions have been made by the Director General of Fair Trading (whether he has refused, revoked, suspended or varied a licence), and what appeals have been lodged against these decisions. An index, listing applicants and licence-holders by true name and business name can be seen free of charge. If a caller wishes to inspect the Register, he or she can find from the index whether there is a file containing particulars relating to the person or organisation in which they are interested. There is a separate file for each licence-applicant.

The Chancery House register will be open for inspection by anyone between 10 a.m. and 3.30 p.m., except for Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays. Callers can inspect the register files for a fee of 10p per file. Copies of documents on files can be obtained for 20p per sheet for uncertified copies, and 40p per sheet for certified copies. Postal requests can also be made for copies of clearly identified documents in the files, but here a handling charge of 50p per request is payable.

Scotland and Ulster

People in Scotland and Northern Ireland will have access to information on the London register at these addresses:

Department of Commerce for Northern Ireland
176 Newtownbreda
Belfast

Office of Fair Trading
9 Hope Street
Edinburgh EH2 4EL

Both offices will be open from 10 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. (except Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays).

Wales

Similar facilities will be made available in Cardiff as soon as accommodation becomes available. In the meantime, a more limited inquiry facility is being provided at:

Room 173
Government Buildings
Gabalfa
Cardiff (tel. Cardiff 62131, ext. 783)

This office will be open from 9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 to 4 p.m. (except Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays). No files will be held at this address, but information will be obtained from London by telephone or telex for callers who wish to ascertain whether the Register contains particulars of an application or a licence-holder under a specified true name or business name. If the caller wishes to see the relevant entries in the Register, the file will be made available at the Cardiff office, normally within two working days.

Further information

A leaflet giving further information about the public register is available from the Office of Fair Trading. Also available are copies of General Notice No. 5 – a formal document issued by the Director General under Section 35 of the Consumer Credit Act, specifying matters to be entered in the register, and where and when it can be inspected.

Consumer safety legislation to be reviewed

Proposals to strengthen the present consumer protection laws will be included in a consulta-

Government Publications in the West

from

Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Wine Street, Bristol, BS1 2BQ

Customs notices of interest to exporters

The following Public Notices issued by HM Customs and Excise relate to various aspects of export procedure. Copies of these Notices may be obtained from the local Officer of Customs and Excise, whose address appears in the telephone directory and to whom all inquiries should be addressed, or from the Secretary, HM Customs and Excise, 39-41 Mark Lane, London EC3R 7HE.

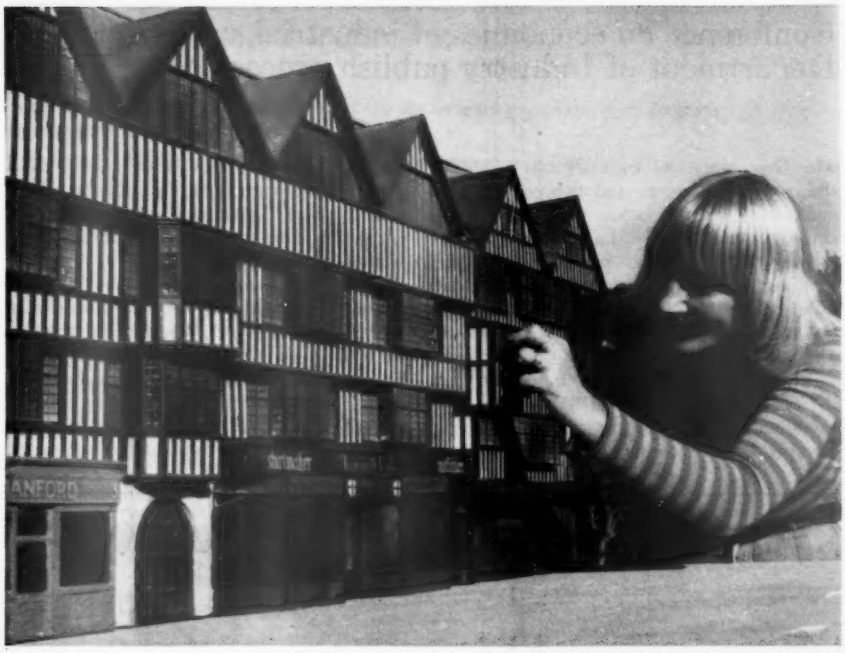
7	Drawback of Excise Duty on mixed or blended beers.
17	Arrangements for preferential trade between the Channel Islands and the United Kingdom.
49	Temporary importations: international co-operation.
104	ATA Carnets.
112	Authorised hours for Customs work at ports, airports and in long rooms and charges for attendance given at the request of merchants.
112A	Charges for attendance given at private premises at the request of merchants.
118	Samples imported for promoting export trade.
172	Hydrocarbon Oils: drawback of Excise Duty.
207	Re-imported goods: relief from Customs duty and Value Added Tax.
210	Temporary importation of films and similar goods for copying, printing, etc., to fulfil export orders.
221	Duty relief under the Import Duties Act 1958, and pre-financing of Common Agricultural Policy Export refunds.
224	Beer exported on drawback as merchandise: examination and sampling.
241	European Economic Community: Compensatory Levy and Addendum thereto.
275	Documentation of Exports for Statistical Purposes.
276	Customs Entry forms in the C273 Series: Guidance on their completion.
290	Export of personal and household effects.
291	Effect of budget changes on claims for drawback.
300	Export reliefs scheduling scheme.
703	VAT – Exports.
704	VAT – Retail Export Schemes. (Revised November 1973)
705	VAT – Tax free sales of motor vehicles to tourists, etc.
750 and Supplement	Community transit – this describes the system as a whole.
750A	List of Community Transit Offices.
750B	Community transit – Extension to cover Austria and Switzerland.
751 and Supplement	Notes on completing Community transit forms T1, T2 and T3 and Control Copy T forms.
751A	Notes on completing Community transit movement certificates.
752	Free circulation of goods in the European Community.
753	Community transit – the simplified procedure for goods carried by rail.
754	Community transit – Intra-Community treatment of the catches of fishing vessels registered in Member States.
755	Community transit – special control procedures.
756	Instructions on the use of loading lists as the descriptive part of Community transit forms T1, T2 and T3.
757	Community transit – Pre-authenticated movement certificate Form T3L.
774	Hydrocarbon Oils Customs Duties: Additions of *Ad Valorem* Protective Element.
800	EEC Common Agricultural Policy: Customs procedures in respect of export refunds, levies and licences.
810	EEC Preferences – Free Trade Agreements between the EEC and the EFTA countries.
810A	EEC Preferences – EFTA Countries. Simplification of the documentation system described in Notice 810. Introduction of universal form of movement certificate EUR 1.
811	EEC Preferences – Greece.
812	EEC Preferences – Turkey.
813, 813A, 813B	EEC Preferences – Israel.
817	EEC Preferences – Tunisia.
818	EEC Preferences – Egypt.
819	EEC Preferences – Cyprus.
820, 820A	EEC Preferences – Lebanon.
821	EEC Preferences – simplified procedure for sending evidence to EEC customers about the origin of goods.
825	The ACP/EEC Convention of Lomé: tariff preferences.
830	Arrangements between Denmark and United Kingdom.

tive document to be published as a Green Paper on 17 February.

Replying to a Parliamentary Question from Gwilym Roberts (Cannock) on 4 February, Alan Williams, Minister of State for Prices and Consumer Protection said:

'A consultative document on consumer safety which discusses possible ways of strengthening and improving the present law and administrative arrangements will be published as a Green Paper on 17 February. I hope the document will encourage wide-ranging public discussion and that those interested will submit their views to my Department. Arrangements are being made in co-operation with the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents for the second day of their annual conference on 3 and 4 March to be devoted to group and general discussions on issues raised in the Green Paper. I have accepted an invitation to attend the conference and to chair the final discussion session.'

Inquiries about the annual conference of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents should be made direct to Mr. K. Roud at the Royal Oak Centre, Brighton Road, Purley, Surrey CR2 2UR (tel. 01-668 4272).



Staple Inn, Holborn – one of the models of famous London buildings which are being recreated in Beetle polyester resin for a model landscape to be erected in March on a riverside site near Bournemouth. Many of London's most famous buildings are being recreated in polyester resin by a team of architectural modelmakers at Stogumber, Somerset. Called Tucktonia, the complex will present 'the best of Britain – in miniature'. It is expected to attract more than a million visitors a year. The models are being cast in Beetle 4116 polyester resin supplied by the Chemicals Division of British Industrial Plastics, Oldbury, West Midlands. Patterns for the more intricate features of the models – roof tiles, brickwork and so forth – are being fabricated from Bextrene polystyrene sheet made by BIP Sheet and Film Division. The total value of the models being built is about £24,000 and considerable quantities of resin are being used. The architect for Tucktonia is Barrie Taylor, Warminster, Wiltshire. KLF Construction Ltd., Bournemouth, is the contracting organisation.

Services to exporters

The following Government offices provide services for UK exporters:

Headquarters

Export Services and Promotions Division

Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU
Tel. 01-248 5757. Telex 886143 DTI EXPORT LDN

Regional

Scotland

Scottish Economic Planning Department
Industrial Development Division
314 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow G3 8XF
Tel. 041-248 2855. Telex 77583 SEPD GLASGOW

Inverness District Office

Caledonia House, 63/67 Academy Street, Inverness IV1 1LU
Tel. (0463) 30867

Wales

Welsh Office

Industry Department
Government Buildings, Gabalfa, Cardiff CF4 4YL
Tel. (0222) 62131. Telex 49267 INDUSTRY CARDIF

Yorkshire and Humberside Regional Office

Priestley House, 1 Park Row, Leeds LS1 5LF
Tel. (0532) 443171. Telex 557925/6 DTI LEEDS

Northern Regional Office

Wellbar House, Gallowgate, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 4TR
Tel. (0632) 27575. Telex 53178 DTI NTYNE

Cumbria District Office

Town Hall, Cockermouth, Cumbria CA13 9NP
Tel. (090-082) 3498/9. Telex 64173 DTI COCKERMOUTH

North-Western Regional Office

Sunley Building, Piccadilly Plaza, Manchester M1 4BA
Tel. 061-236 2171. Telex 667104 DTI MCHR

West-Midlands Regional Office

Ladywood House, Stephenson Street, Birmingham B2 4DT
Tel. 021-632 4111. Telex 337021 DTI BHAM

East-Midlands Regional Office

Cranbrook House, 47 Cranbrook Street, Nottingham NG1 1ES
Tel. (0602) 46121. Telex 37143 DTI NOTTM

South-Western Regional Office

The Pithay, Bristol BS1 2PB
Tel. (0272) 291071. Telex 44214 DTI BRISTOL

Northern Ireland Department of Commerce

Chichester House, 64 Chichester Street, Belfast BT1 4JX
Tel. (0232) 34488. Telex 747025 GOVNI BELFAST

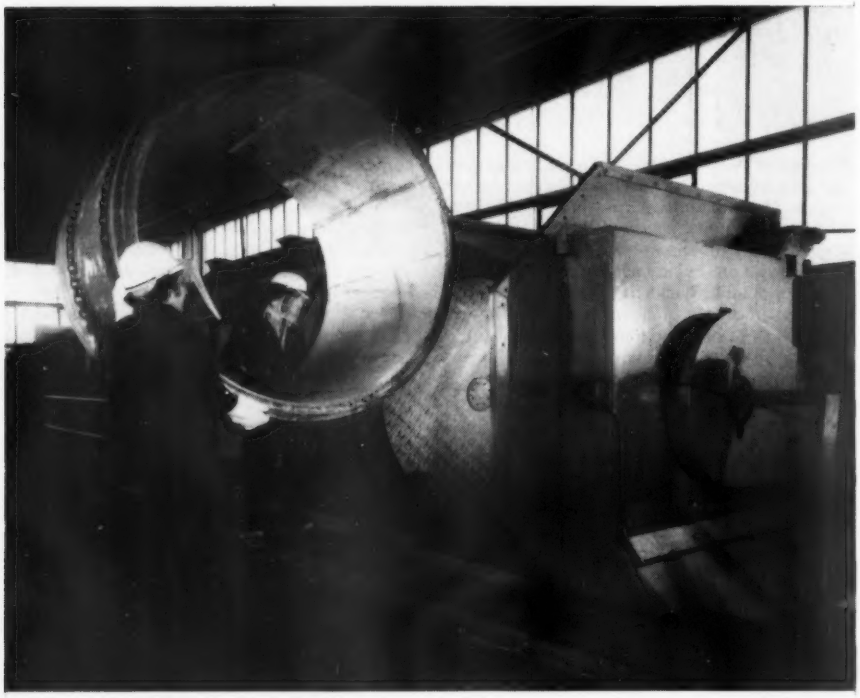
Conference on economics of industrial subsidies: Department of Industry publish proceedings

The Department of Industry has published this week the papers and proceedings of a conference on the economics of industrial subsidies which was held at the Civil Service College, Sunningdale, in February 1975. The conference, sponsored by the Department of Industry, was arranged in order to review current thinking on the economic analysis of various forms of subsidies offered to industry and which could be of relevance to policy decisions. The conference was attended not only by researchers currently engaged on economic and econometric studies, including government as well as academic economists, but also senior officials with a close knowledge of the problems encountered in translating economic advice into policy recommendations.

In order to focus the attention of the contributors on problems primarily of interest to the Department of Industry contributors were supplied with background papers by government economists and officials giving details of the evolvement of subsidy policy in the UK, its administration, and a comparison with policy abroad. These papers represent a contribution in their own right, and should form as useful a background to the rest of the proceedings for the reader of this volume as they did for the outside contributors.

The areas covered by the conference may be classified as (a) the reasons for, objectives and effectiveness of subsidies to industry as viewed by the economist, the politician and the official; (b) the economic analysis of subsidies to labour, capital, and research and development; (c) the problems of quantitative estimation of the effects of industrial subsidies. The published papers include some revisions made in the light of the comments of those who were asked to introduce them together with the lively discussion which followed. The contents offer a unique record of the current state of knowledge of the subsidies problem and one which merits much further investigation. It is hoped that the publication will stimulate further research in this extremely important yet somewhat neglected area.

The 270 page volume is available from HMSO, price £5.50 (ISBN 0 11 511638 9).



This machine is believed to be the largest rotary lining machine in the world. It has been built by Glacier, a member of the Associated Engineering Group, at its Kilmarnock factory and installed at its Jarrow works. It is the largest single piece of equipment ever built in a Glacier factory and measures nearly 50 ft long, 8 ft wide, 10 ft high, and weighs about 25 tons. Designed to meet the need for large bearings for super tankers or large industrial plant such as ore crushers or steel rolling mills, the machine will handle work up to 2.6m diameter, 3m length and weighing up to 12.4 tonnes.

Applications for increases in domestic air fares

Britain's 12 domestic airlines have applied to the Civil Aviation Authority for increases in domestic air fares from 1 April.

The applications cover most internal air routes, the main exception being the trunk and certain related routes (London-Glasgow, Edinburgh, Prestwick and Belfast) on which an appeal is pending following the Authority's decision to allow a Gatwick discount fare at the same time as increases in the general level of trunk route fares from 1 November 1975.

The new applications are broadly for increases of:

10 per cent – on all routes *except* trunk and related routes, and those listed below;

5 per cent – London (Gatwick or Heathrow) to Newquay; Glasgow and Western Isles services; Birmingham to Aberdeen and Inverness;

7½ per cent – London (Gatwick or Heathrow) to Newcastle, Aberdeen and Inverness;

12½ per cent – Belfast routes (except Channel Islands/Isle of Man/London and

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Hints to businessmen

Department of Trade's *Hints to Businessmen* booklets cover over 100 countries individually, and provide invaluable information on such subjects as industries, economic factors, the nature and extent of imports and exports, population, travel, hotels, climate, currency and public holidays. Copies are available free to British businessmen visiting any country on export business. Apply to: Export Services Division, Department of Trade, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel. 01-248 5757 ext. 7146).

Luton); Scottish internal services except Glasgow-Oban, Oban-Mull, Mull-Coll and Coll-Tiree, on which routes no increase has been applied for, and those listed below;
15 per cent – Shetland Island services (except Sumburgh-Fair Isle for which service an increase of £1.80 is proposed), and Penzance-Isle of Scilly;
20 per cent – Orkney Island services;
30 per cent – Newquay to Isles of Scilly.

Fares to and from the Channel Islands will, if approved by the Authority, be increased by flat rates of £2 from London (Gatwick or Heathrow), Lydd, Glamorgan, and points north of that line; £1.50 from Manchester, Liverpool and points north of that line; and £1.30 from Bournemouth. No increases are proposed on the routes Channel Islands-Aberdeen, Humberside, Cambridge or Norwich.

On routes to and from the Isle of Man it is proposed to increase fares by £1 (£2 return).

Full details of the applications are contained in the Civil Aviation Authority's *Official Record* published on 27 January.

CAA occurrence reporting scheme

The Civil Aviation Authority's guidance document explaining the mandatory occurrence reporting scheme, which was circulated to those directly concerned as a final draft in November 1975, has now been published in the Authority's CAP series*.

The Authority feels that it is most important, if the scheme is to benefit flight safety fully, that all those involved in operating the scheme should be aware of its aims and requirements, and this is the purpose of the guidance document.

The document reviews the relevant legislation and the detailed administrative arrangements for running the scheme. It covers such questions as:

confidentiality; objectives of the scheme; relationship with the Accidents Investigation Branch of the Department of Trade; categories of aircraft involved; categories of persons involved; items to be reported; reporting procedures (including those for airmisses and bird strikes and reporting by air traffic controllers) and processing and publication of information received.

* *The Mandatory Occurrence Reporting Scheme, Information and Guidance, CAP 382*, obtainable (price £1) from CAA, PO Box 41, Cheltenham, Glos., or by personal callers only, from CAA Central Library, Aviation House, 129 Kingsway, London WC2.

Patents endorsed 'Licences of Right'

Under Section 35 of the Patents Act 1949 the following patents were endorsed 'Licences of Right' on the date(s) specified.

Number	Grantee	Subject-matter
23 January 1976		
1,113,181	Carrier Corporation	Absorption refrigeration
1,113,182	Carrier Corporation	Absorption refrigeration
1,115,111	Carrier Corporation	Fuel gas burning apparatus
1,123,635	Societe Anonyme Automobiles Citroen	Improvements in regulating devices for free piston internal combustion engines
1,132,973	Societe Anonyme Automobiles Citroen	Improvements in hydraulic transmission power plants
1,132,975	Societe Anonyme Automobiles Citroen	Improvements in regulation devices for free piston internal combustion engines
1,340,162	Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd.	Waveguide filter
1,362,653	Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd.	Data network terminal unit
1,363,357	Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd.	Telephone system
1,034,208	Ventolite nsb Ltd., formerly Northampton Sun Blind Co. Ltd.	Improvements in venetian blinds
1,129,846	Ventolite nsb Ltd., formerly Northampton Sun Blind Co. Ltd.	Tapelocks for venetian blinds
1,361,113	Ventolite nsb Ltd., formerly Northampton Sun Blind Co. Ltd.	Improvements in or relating to clips
1,090,381	H. H. Robertson Co.	Corrugated and composite sheets particularly for floors
1,188,543	Eric Gordon Wainwright and Andrew Wainwright	An improved drawbar pin assembly
1,290,311	Societe d'Exploitation des Laboratoires Bottu	New derivatives of pyrazolidine-3,5-dione
1,293,919	Rene Henri Charles Marty	A transport system
1,327,746	Vendops Ltd.	Improvements in or relating to beverage vending machines
1,363,011	International Standard Electric Corporation	Telephone exchange subscribers line scanner
27 January 1976		
1,066,374	Commissariat A L'Energie Atomique	Apparatus for the radioactive decontamination of water
1,090,529	Commissariat A L'Energie Atomique	Method and device for releasing electric energy
1,187,149	Commissariat A L'Energie Atomique	Electromagnetic accumulator device
1,187,150	Commissariat A L'Energie Atomique	A method for transferring energy to a conductive medium and an apparatus for the implementation of the method
1,191,446	Commissariat A L'Energie Atomique	Superconductive circuit
1,238,995	Commissariat A L'Energie Atomique	A propulsion unit for operation in a liquid medium
1,280,839	Commissariat A L'Energie Atomique	Improvements to a circuit for introducing trapping and maintaining an electric current within a superconducting circuit
1,291,514	Commissariat A L'Energie Atomique	Method of measuring low-intensity luminous flux
1,291,543	Commissariat A L'Energie Atomique	Method and device for magnetometry
1,292,199	Commissariat A L'Energie Atomique	Method and device for the production of an ion beam having a large cross-sectional area
1,292,559	Commissariat A L'Energie Atomique	A handling system comprising two rotary plugs for a nuclear reactor
1,293,436	Commissariat A L'Energie Atomique	Fastening system for fuel pins
1,293,703	Commissariat A L'Energie Atomique	Marine propulsion unit
1,294,418	Commissariat A L'Energie Atomique	Method of preparing substituted alkali metal amides
1,295,560	Commissariat A L'Energie Atomique	Nuclear reactor
1,296,314	Commissariat A L'Energie Atomique	Apparatus for the continuous incineration of radioactive waste
1,296,616	Commissariat A L'Energie Atomique	A centrifuge for a hypodermic syringe
1,300,502	Commissariat A L'Energie Atomique	Nuclear fuel pins
1,300,983	Commissariat A L'Energie Atomique	Device for creating a high direct-current electric potential
1,302,319	Commissariat A L'Energie Atomique	A base for a high temperature nuclear reactor
1,302,327	Commissariat A L'Energie Atomique	Machine for compensating the axial loads on a machine
1,303,130	Commissariat A L'Energie Atomique	Method of isotopic exchange between ammonia or an amine and hydrogen
1,303,899	Commissariat A L'Energie Atomique	Implantable artificial heart
1,304,313	Commissariat A L'Energie Atomique	Process for the separation of neptunium from plutonium by liquid – liquid extraction
1,304,481	Commissariat A L'Energie Atomique	A method and apparatus for improving the operation of direct-current gas-flow ionisation chamber
1,305,308	Commissariat A L'Energie Atomique	Manufacture of sintered compacts for simple or mixed oxides
1,305,523	Commissariat A L'Energie Atomique	System of electrostatic quadrupole micro-lenses
1,305,695	Commissariat A L'Energie Atomique	Process for isotopic exchange between hydrogen (deuterium or deuterated hydrogen) and a primary or secondary amine
1,306,655	Commissariat A L'Energie Atomique	A nuclear reactor of the type comprising a core cover
1,053,895	Regie Nationàle des Usines Renault	Improvements relating to dog-coupling synchromesh clutches
1,066,147	Regie Nationàle des Usines Renault	Rear wheel suspension systems for motor vehicle
1,251,449	Regie Nationàle des Usines Renault	A locking system for doors of a vehicle
1,097,758	The Regents of the University of California	Improvements in and relating to carburettors
1,314,645	Societe Anonyme Automobiles Citroen	Improvements in and relating to car safety belts

Have you a good industrial news picture?

Pictures are published in *Trade and Industry* each week showing developments in British industry. If your company has introduced an interesting new product, if you have received an award, if you have developed a novel manufacturing process, if you have produced the biggest or smallest or heaviest or (you feel) the best designed product, you are welcome to send us a photograph with a short news story. Contributions should be sent promptly – while the subject is still newsworthy – to the Editor, *Trade and Industry*, Room 439, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.

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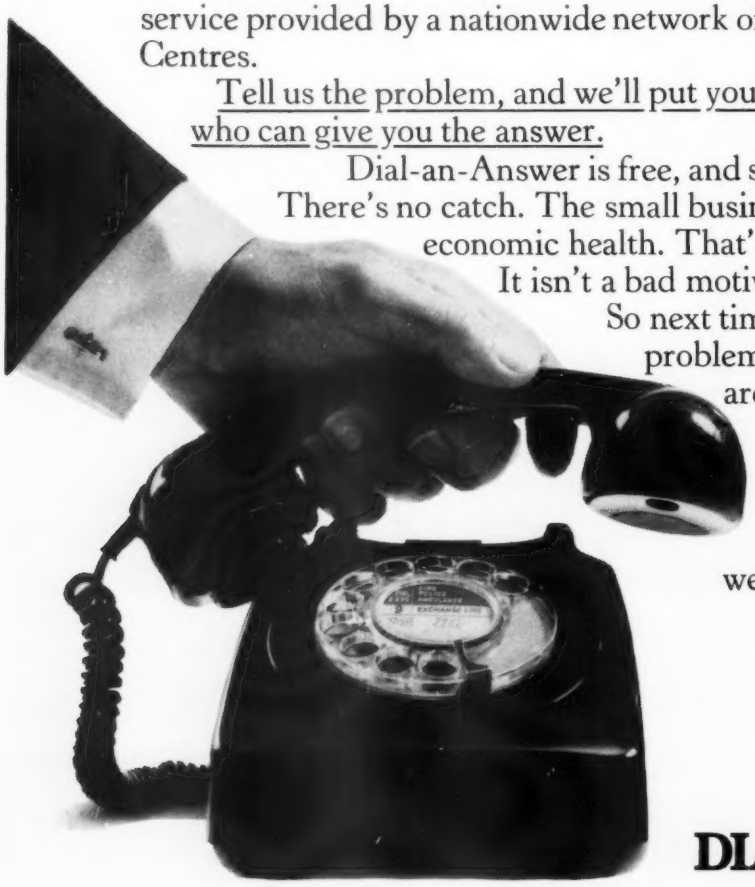

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A free service by the Department of Industry, the Scottish Office and the Welsh Office in the interests of business efficiency.

Number	Grantee	Subject-matter
28 January 1976		
1,375,231	Glaverbel-Mecaniver	Process and apparatus for manufacturing sheet glass
1,375,232	Glaverbel-Mecaniver	Process and apparatus for manufacturing sheet glass
1,388,956	Glaverbel-Mecaniver	Process and apparatus for use in manufacturing sheet glass
1,388,957	Glaverbel-Mecaniver	Process and apparatus for use in manufacturing sheet glass
1,388,958	Glaverbel-Mecaniver	Process and apparatus for use in manufacturing sheet glass
1,394,829	Glaverbel-Mecaniver	Apparatus and process for manufacturing sheet glass
1,395,987	Glaverbel-Mecaniver	Method and apparatus for treating vitreous material
1,397,641	Glaverbel-Mecaniver	Process and apparatus for use in manufacturing or treating flat glass
1,397,741	Glaverbel-Mecaniver	Improvements in or relating to forming metal oxide coatings on substrates
1,397,742	Glaverbel-Mecaniver	Improvements in or relating to forming metal oxide coatings on substrates
1,398,324	Glaverbel-Mecaniver	Process and apparatus for use in manufacturing sheet glass
1,398,434	Glaverbel-Mecaniver	Multiple panel units
1,400,823	Glaverbel-Mecaniver	Process of forming coloured glass bodies
1,400,824	Glaverbel-Mecaniver	Process of colouring glass bodies
1,401,836	Glaverbel-Mecaniver	Apparatus for holding and transporting sheets
1,402,972	Glaverbel-Mecaniver	Process and apparatus for the manufacture of flat glass
1,403,065	Glaverbel-Mecaniver	Process and apparatus for drawing flat glass
1,251,253	Etat Francais	Apparatus for supplying a continuous nitration reactor
1,263,574	Etat Francais	Igniter for propellants
1,270,298	Etat Francais	Igniter for explosive charges
1,284,708	Ilford Ltd.	Spindle stub-end holders
1,390,788	Ilford Ltd.	Spindle stub-end holders
1,310,099	Societa Italiana Resine SIR SpA, formerly Italiana Resine SpA	Process for preparing a dimerisation catalyst
1,310,476	Societa Italiana Resine SIR SpA, formerly Italiana Resine SpA	Process for producing catalysts for dimerisation propylene
1,372,705	Societe Italian Resine SIR SpA	Unsaturated polyester resin compositions
997,601	Vulcan Materials Co.	Oxychlorination of aromatics
1,311,612	Lawtex Ltd.	Improvements in telescopic and folding umbrellas or parasols

Any person who claims that the patentee at the time of endorsement of any of the above patents was precluded by a contract in which claimant is interested from granting licences under the patents may apply for cancellation of the endorsement on Patent Form No. 45 within two months after the date of endorsement.

E. Armitage
Comptroller

Decorative designs for new buildings

A final polish at the factory of Building Finishes Ltd., High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, is applied to a glass fibre negative formwork liner which will be used to cast a permanent decorative concrete finish on a new building. A dozen negative liners are cast from an individually-designed master and are then used repeatedly on site as concrete moulds. The moulds feature repetitive patterns or specially sculptured designs by British consultant designer William Mitchell, which have been commissioned for many major developments throughout the world. The required concrete surface texture and adequate workability are achieved by using air-entrained or glass fibre reinforced concrete. This readily produces complex and intricate shapes with a high strength and lower unit weight compared with conventional concrete mixtures.

Concorde flights to USA

The US Government's decision to allow Concorde services to fly to the United States, announced on 4 February, has been welcomed by Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade. He made the following statement to Parliament:

'As the House will be aware, the United States Secretary of Transportation, Mr. Coleman, announced yesterday his decision on the application by British Airways and Air France for up to two flights each per day to John F. Kennedy Airport, New York, and one each per day to Dulles International Airport, Washington. He allowed their application in full, for a trial period not to exceed 16 months. This will start from the date of the first flight. He has specified a number of conditions for these services, but none of these appears to present any substantial difficulty.

'Mr. Coleman has reached this decision following the most exhaustive scrutiny of the arguments for and against allowing Concorde into the United States. He himself chaired a public hearing on 5 January, in which my Hon. Friend, the Minister of State, the Department of Industry and a senior representative of the French Government took part. The decision, which runs to some 60 pages of closely argued text, is an impressive and balanced assessment of the environmental aspects of Concorde's operations. I have placed a copy of the decision in the Library.

'I am sure the House will welcome this decision to permit Concorde to fly direct to New York and Washington from London and Paris. The way is now open for regular supersonic services across the North Atlantic. I believe services during this period will demonstrate that they will have a minimal effect on the environment.

Formal application

'British Airways have made formal application to the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey today and have reminded them of the great importance of speedy decision. They are also arranging immediate discussions on the practical details of the operations with the Federal Aviation Administration. BA aim to begin service in May provided of course that there are no new obstacles. Officials will be discussing early next week with the Department of Transportation and the Federal Aviation Administration the monitoring programme on noise and ozone which Mr. Coleman has said should be carried out. We are already working with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration on a programme to measure chemical constituents of the stratosphere, using Concorde for this purpose.

'Concorde entered commercial service to Bahrain and Rio de Janeiro on 21 January. We now look forward to Concorde carrying people across the North Atlantic in just over three hours – half the time of present subsonic services.'

Appointment of Inspectors – Data Investments and Vivella

Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade has appointed Peter Julian Millett, QC, of 9 Old Square, Lincoln's Inn, London WC2 and Ian MacDonald Bowie, chartered accountant, of 11 Ironmonger Lane, London EC2, to act as inspectors to investigate the affairs of Data Investments Ltd. and Vivella Ltd., under the provisions of Section 165 (b) of the Companies Act 1948.

Inspectors' Report on Hartley Baird

The inspectors' report of their investigation into the affairs of Hartley Baird Ltd. under the provisions of Section 172 of the Companies Act, 1948, was published on 4 February.

Mr. J. B. R. Hazan, QC, and Mr. T. G. Harding, FCA, were appointed as inspectors on 21 September 1973 under the provisions of Sections 164 and 172 of the Companies Act, 1948, to investigate the affairs of Hartley Baird Ltd.; and to investigate the ownership of the company, in particular the controlling interest in the company acquired by Dr. William Kurt Wallersteiner and his mother Alice Stoss or by any company controlled by them. On 24 May 1974 Mr. A. M. Troup, BA, was appointed an additional inspector.

The inspectors' report under Section 172 was submitted on 21 October 1975. Their report under Section 164 is expected later this year.

Clearance of merger proposals

Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection has decided, on the information at present before her, not to refer the following proposed mergers to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission under the provisions of the Fair Trading Act 1973:

The parcel tanker operations of Panocean Shipping and Terminals Ltd. and Anco Tanker Services Ltd.

James Finlay and Co. Ltd./Teith Holdings Ltd. and West Nile Holdings Ltd.

McLeod Russel and Co. Ltd./The Consolidated Tea and Lands Co. Ltd. and Cessnock Holdings Ltd.

New insurance regulations on asset valuation

New regulations which prescribe methods of valuing insurance companies' assets were published on 9 February, and come into effect on 1 May. They will then replace and extend earlier regulations, effective since last February.

The earlier regulations established for the first time rules for the valuation of the assets of an insurance company in certain specified contexts, in particular to determine its solvency for the purposes of the Insurance Companies Act 1974.

The new regulations make some minor improvements in the light of experience of applying the earlier ones. Their main purpose is to establish limits on the extent to which individual large assets may be taken into account.

Additions to the new regulations, compared with the previous ones, include:

A requirement for the excess to be left out of account if the value of certain large single assets exceeds a specified percentage of the company's liabilities; and,

Existing rules for valuing shares or debts from dependent companies are adapted to take account of the limits on admissibility of large single assets.

Limits on admissibility for large single assets

Regulation 15 of the new regulations will require large single assets of types listed in Schedule 2 to be left out of account to the extent that the value of each exceeds a specified percentage of the company's liabilities.

For this purpose, life and non-life insurance assets must be considered separately.

There is no prohibition on excess holdings. Companies may hold amounts greater than the prescribed limits permitted by the regulations as part of their free assets, ie the proprietor's interest.

The permitted limit percentages range from ¼ per cent for loans to individuals, to 7½ per cent for the aggregate of shareholdings in, and debts due from any one unrelated company and its associated companies.

Within the range is a limit of 5 per cent for any one piece of land or building, or for any debt fully secured on land.

There is also a limit of 2½ per cent for most of the other listed assets.

With the exception of the permitted limit for the aggregate of premiums outstanding from policyholders and intermediaries, which is fixed at 30 per cent of the premiums received or due during the preceding 12 months the limits are to be calculated on the company's liabilities – life or non-life as the case may be.

Assets held by dependent companies

There is no limit on the admissibility of shares in, or debts owed, by dependent companies, but there are special rules for valuing such assets.

The regulations define dependents as companies in which the insurance company holds one third or more of the voting shares and any further successive dependents of such companies.

Regulations 4 and 5 and Schedule 1 set out the rules for valuing an insurance company's shares and debts due from dependents.

The rules are based on the principle of 'looking through' to the dependents' assets and liabilities, and applying the same valuation and admissibility rules to them as if they were held by an insurance company.

Where the insurance company already holds its full permitted limit of a particular asset, holdings of that asset by its dependent have, in general, to be left out of account in determining the value of its shares in, or debts due from them.

If the insurance company holds less than its permitted amount, the difference may, under conditions set out in the regulations (Regulation 5(4) and Schedule 1) be added to some extent to the amount which may be taken into account in valuing the dependent's holdings.

This is designed to allow an insurance

Small Firms Information Centres

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Birmingham	021-643 3344	West Midlands	4054	337919
Bristol	294546	South West	9910	449650
Cardiff	396116	Wales	1208	497515
Glasgow	041-248 6014	Scotland	846	779334
Leeds	445151	Yorks/Humberside	5361	557687
London	01-828 2384	London & South East	2079	917920
Luton	29215	Eastern	372	826115
Manchester	061-832 5282	North Western	6005	667952
Newcastle	25353	Northern	529	537429
Nottingham	49791	East Midlands	4062	377313

company to put the management of a certain category of assets – such as property – in the hands of a specialised dependent instead of holding it directly.

Notes

Copies of The Insurance Companies (Valuation of Assets) Regulations (SI 1976 No. 87) are available from HMSO, price 28p net.

The new regulations will supersede the Insurance Companies (Valuation of Assets) Regulations 1974 (SI 1974 No. 2203) with effect from 1 May.

Previous regulations made under the Insurance Companies Amendment Act 1973 – since consolidated by the Insurance Companies Act 1974 – are:

The Insurance Companies (Identification of Long Term Assets and Liabitities) Regulations 1973.

The Insurance Companies (Intermediaries) Regulations 1974

The Insurance Companies (Intermediaries) (Amendment) Regulations 1974.

The Insurance Companies (Contests of Advertisements) Regulations 1974.

The Insurance Companies (Contents of Advertisements) (Amendment) Regulations 1974.

The Insurance Companies (Linked Properties and Indices) Regulations 1975.

The Insurance Companies (Changes of Director, Controller or Manager) Regulations 1975.

The Insurance Companies (Accounts and Forms) (Amendment) Regulations 1975.

Regulations remain to be made on a number of other matters, including the submission of annual and quarterly returns, the general business solvency margin, the control of insurance advertisements and rules for the winding-up of insurance companies.

Prevention of Fraud (Investments) Act 1958

Dealers in securities

The following changes have taken place in the lists of dealers in securities under Sections 3 and 16 of the Prevention of Fraud (Investments) Act 1958.

Licensed dealers
Additions:

Energy Finance and General Trust Ltd., 61 Cheapside, London EC2V 6AX.
European Trading Co., 9/10 Angel Court, London EC2R 7LR.
Renote Ltd., 80 Bishopsgate, London EC2N 4AU.

Change of name:

Bradstock, Blunt and Thompson (Life and Pensions) Ltd. to Bradstock, Blunt and Barney Ltd., Capel House, 62 New Bond Street, London EC2M 1A.

Change of address:

Cannon Street Investments (Securities) Ltd., 3 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6JM.

Exempted dealers
Additions:

The Nippon Fudosan Bank Ltd., Winchester House, 77 London Wall, London EC2N 1BL.
Deutsche Bank Aktiengesellschaft, 33 Great St. Helen's, London EC3A 6BH.

Authorised unit trust schemes

The following amendments have taken place in the list of unit trust schemes authorised under Section 17 of the Act and published in Part 5 of the 1975 Particulars of Dealers in Securities and of Unit Trusts.

Group and/or name and address of management company	Nane of scheme	Name and address of trustee
ADDITIONS Founders Court Management Services Ltd., Founders Court, Lothbury, London EC2R 7HE	Brown Shipley Exempt Fund	Royal Exchange Assurance, Royal Exchange, London EC3P 3DN
Schlesinger Trust Managers Ltd., 19 Hanover Square, London W1R 9DA	Trident Market Leaders Fund	Midland Bank Trust Co. Ltd., 27/32 Poultry, London EC2P 3BX
L and C Unit Trust Management Ltd., Tower Block, The Stock Exchange, Throgmorton Street, London EC2N 1HA	L & C Income Fund	The Governor and Co. of the Bank of Scotland, PO Box No. 5, Edinburgh EH1 1YZ
DELETE Tyndall Ulster Managers Ltd., 108/110 Great Victoria Street, Belfast BT2 7BY	Tyndall Canynge Fund	Williams and Glyn's Bank Ltd., 20 Birchin Lane, London EC3P 3DP
AND REPLACE BY Tyndall Managers Ltd., 18 Canynge Road, Bristol BS99 7UA	Tyndall Canynge Fund	Williams and Glyn's Bank Ltd., 20 Birchin Lane, London EC3P 3DP
DELETE Slater Walker Trust Management Ltd., 30 St. Pauls Churchyard, London EC4M 8DA	JL International Consumer Fund	National Westminster Bank Ltd., 41 Lothbury London EC2P 2BP
AND REPLACE BY Slater Walker Trust Management Ltd., 30 St. Pauls Churchyard, London EC4M 8DA	Slater Walker International Consumer Trust	National Westminster Bank Ltd., 41 Lothbury, London EC2P 2BP
DELETE Hambros Unit Trust Managers Ltd., 51 Bishopsgate, London EC2P 2AA	First National Growth Units	The Royal Bank of Scotland London Trustee Co., 49 Charing Cross, London SW1A 2DX
AND REPLACE BY Hambros Unit Trust Managers Ltd., 51 Bishopsgate, London EC2P 2AA	Allied Hambro Pacific Fund	The Royal Bank of Scotland London Trustee Co., 49 Charing Cross, London SW1A 2DX
DELETE L and C Unit Trust Management Ltd., 3 London Wall Buildings, London EC2M 5PH	L & C Unit Trust	The Governor and Co. of The Bank of Scotland, PO Box No. 5, Edinburgh EH1 1YZ
AND REPLACE BY L and C Unit Trust Management Ltd., Tower Block, The Stock Exchange, Throgmorton Street, London EC2N 1HA	L & C International and General Fund	The Governor and Co. of The Bank of Scotland, PO Box No. 5, Edinburgh EH1 1YZ
DELETE Ebor Securities Ltd., 4 Great St. Helens, London EC3P 3EP	Ebor High Return Unit Trust	The Governor and Co. of The Bank of Scotland, PO Box No. 5, Edinburgh EH1 1YZ
AND REPLACE BY Save and Prosper Securities Ltd., 4 Great St. Helens, London EC3P 3EP	Save and Prosper High Return Unit Trust	The Governor and Co. of The Bank of Scotland, PO Box No. 5, Edinburgh EH1 1YZ
DELETE Coyne Investment Management Ltd., Underbeeches, Underhill Park Road, Reigate, Surrey		
AND REPLACE BY Coyne Investment Management Ltd., 23 East Street, Tonbridge, Kent		

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To: The Industrial Expansion Team, Department of Industry, Millbank Tower, Millbank, London SW1P 4QU

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The Areas for Expansion TI 13/2

ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY
IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE SCOTTISH ECONOMIC PLANNING DEPARTMENT AND THE WELSH OFFICE.

Time limits for investment grant applications

The Investment Grants Termination (No. 6) Order 1976 which was made on 14 January came into operation on 9 February. This Order specifies dates by which applications for investment grants must be made.

The dates and periods in question are as follows:

Expenditure incurred	Date before which application must be made
1 April 1975-30 June 1975	1 January 1977
1 July 1975-30 September 1975	1 April 1977
1 October 1975-31 December 1975	1 July 1977
1 January 1976-31 March 1976	1 October 1977

A direction has also been made providing that application must be made on the standard form relevant to the type of asset on which the expenditure was incurred and accompanied in each case by a report by an independent qualified accountant as at present required.

The then Minister for Industry announced on 12 February 1971 in reply to a question in the House of Commons his intention to set these time limits. Industry will be given full notice both of the making of any further Order and of any reduction in the interval of 18 months between the period in which expenditure is incurred and the final date for making application.

Section 1(6) of the Investment and Building Grants Act 1971, which received the Royal Assent on 27 July 1971, empowers the Secretary of State for Industry to specify by Order dates by which applications for investment grants must be made and to issue directions as to the form of such applications, the particulars they must contain and the documents which must accompany them.

The Act precludes the payment of grant on applications not complying or in the opinion of the Secretary of State not substantially complying, with any relevant direction.

The Investment Grants Termination (No. 5) Order 1975, which provided for applications in relation to expenditure incurred in various periods up to 31 March 1975 to be made before certain dates up to 1 October 1976, and the related direction came into operation on 17 February 1975.

Copies of the Investment Grants Termination (No. 6) Order 1976 (SI 1976 No. 41) are available from HMSO price 8p.

Appendix I. Notes for applicants

Before any grant is made in relation to expenditure incurred after 26 October 1970 the Department will require the application to be supported by forms IG/32 (or IG/33 in the case of ships) and the relevant evidence of contract.

Full information to assist applicants in completing the forms prescribed in the direction is contained in the booklet *Investment Grants: a Guide for Industry* and in explanatory notes issued with each form. Copies of the forms, explanatory notes and the booklet may be obtained from the Regional Development Grants Offices and Regional Development Grants Division.

Plant and machinery forms available from the following Department of Industry Regional Development Grants Offices:

Queensway House, West Precinct, Town Centre, Billingham, Cleveland TS23 2NF. Tel. (0642) 553671, telex 58608.

24-26 Newport Road, Cardiff CF2 1SY. Tel. (0222) 42611, telex 49538.

St. Peter's House, Stanley Precinct, Bootle, Merseyside L20 2LZ. Tel. 051-922 4030, telex 627162.

Magnet House, Waterloo Street, Glasgow G2 7BT. Tel. 041-221 9833, telex 77611.

Forms for ships, hovercraft and computers available from:

Department of Industry, Regional Development Grants Division, Millbank Tower, London SW1P 4QU. Tel. 01-211 5518, telex 918829.

Appendix II. Direction under Section 1(6) of the Investment and Building Grants Act 1971

The terms of the latest direction made in accordance with the provisions of the 1971 Act are as follows:

The Secretary of State having by the Investment Grants Termination (No. 6) Order 1976 (SI 1976 No. 41) provided that applications for grant under Part 1 of the Industrial Development Act 1966 in respect of expenditure incurred during certain periods are to be made before certain dates therein specified and that such applications are to be made in such a form and manner and to contain such particulars and be accompanied by such documents as he may direct;

The Secretary of State hereby directs that applications to which the Order applies:

a) Shall be made on such form available from any of the Regional Development Grants Offices (or in the case of a form relating to computers, ships, or hovercraft, Regional Development Grants Division, Millbank Tower, London SW1P 4QU) of the Department of Industry and bearing the number specified in the first column of the Annex to this direction as is appropriate to assets of the class to which the asset, in relation to which the application for grant is made, belongs, such classes being specified in relation to each form in the second column of the said Annex, and

b) Shall contain the particulars required by that form and by the explanatory note specified in the Annex to this direction as relating to that form, including the reports so required by an accountant having the qualifications set out in that explanatory note.

Dated 9 Feb. 1976

An Assistant Secretary
Department of Industry

ANNEX APPLICATION FORMS

Form no.	Asset	Explanatory notes
IG/1	Plant and machinery for use in the manufacturing and ship repairing industries	IG/1/A
IG/2	Plant and machinery provided for use in the construction industry	IG/2/A
IG/3	Plant and machinery provided for use in the extractive industry	IG/3/A
IG/3(CS)	Plant and machinery provided for use in the extractive industry in an area designated by order in council under Section 1 of the Continental Shelf Act 1964	IG/3/(CS)/A
IG/4	Plant and machinery hired out for use in the manufacturing, ship repairing and extractive industries	IG/4/A
IG/5	Plant and machinery provided for hiring out for use for construction purposes	IG/5/A
IG/6	A computer for use by the applicant or hired out for a period of not less than three years	IG/6/A
IG/7	A new ship	IG/7/A
IG/8	A hovercraft provided for use by the applicant	IG/8/A
IG/9	Mining works	IG/9/A
IG/11	Plant and machinery provided for use in the manufacturing and ship repairing industries*	IG/1/A
IG/12	Plant and machinery provided for use in the construction industry*	IG/2/A
IG/13	Plant and machinery provided for use in the extractive industry*	IG/3/A
IG/14	Plant and machinery hired out for use in the manufacturing, ship repairing and extractive industries	IG/4/A
IG/15	Plant and machinery provided for hiring out for use for construction purposes*	IG/5/A
IG/16	A computer leased for period of less than three years	IG/16/A
IG/17	New parts for a ship	IG/17/A
IG/18	A hovercraft hired out by the applicant	IG/18/A
IG/20	Expenditure incurred in the production of a prototype for use in scientific research	IG/20/A
IG/36	A computer	IG/6/A (amended)

* This form incorporates an undertaking for use when the asset has been disposed of before the application for grant is made.

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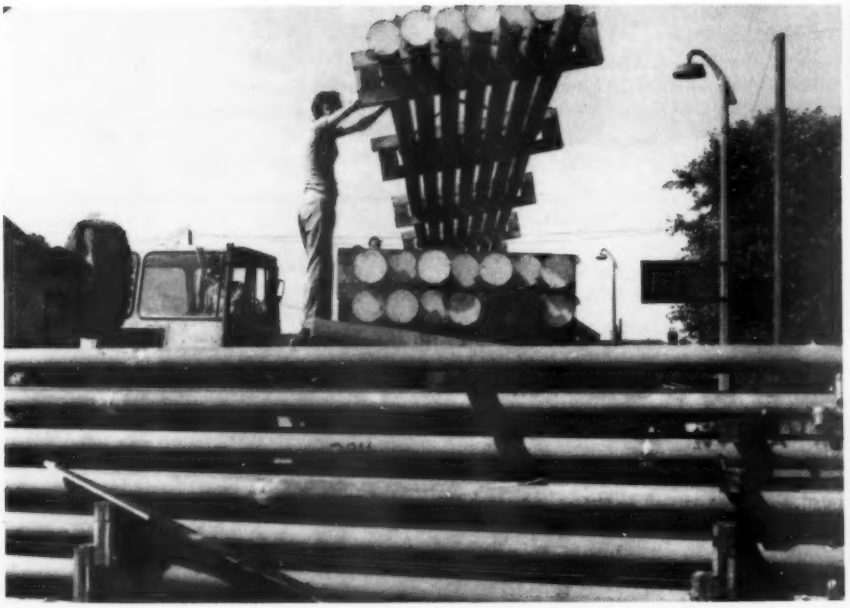
British pipes...

1



2

4

and castings

3

5

1
Reformer furnace tubes destined for installation in the floating ammonia plant being constructed for Pertamina, the Indonesian State Oil Co. The tubes are part of a $2 million contract received by APV Paramount Ltd., Crawley, West Sussex, from Chemical Industry Contractors, Frankfurt, a member of the IPI Contractors A.G. Group of Zug, Switzerland. The tubes are produced by centrifugal casting in a special grade of Paralloy heat resisting steel containing 25 per cent chromium and 35 per cent nickel.

2
An unusual off-set oval section forged steel tube being checked, prior to final finishing, for dimensional accuracy at Tubes Ltd., a TI Steel Tube Division company, of Birmingham. This component forms part of a crude oil production mandrel for down-hole oil completion equipment produced by Camco Ltd., County Antrim. The equipment is to Camco's own design and the company approached Tubes Ltd. because of their experience in producing tubular forgings for a wide variety of applications.

3
Not a severe case of measles but the casting for a high pressure steam valve for the Syncrude Athabasca oil mining project in Alberta, undergoing magnetic particle crack detection procedures during manufacture at the Skelmersdale, Lancs. factory of Dewrance and Company. The casting, to the right of this , is marked up for ultrasonic examination and is part of a series of orders worth £600,000 to supply boiler, turbine and feeder heater isolation valves to Huntly, New Zealand's largest power station.

4
HepSeal vitrified clay pipe during a stage in production at one of Hepworth Iron Co.'s factories. Twelve automatic tunnel kilns are in operation to meet world demand for the company's building drainage and ducting systems. With a permanent office and resident representatives in Bahrain, supported by agents and stockists in all areas of development in the Middle East, Hepworth Iron Co. (headquarters at Elliston, Leicester) is set to meet the growing demand from architects, consultants and contractors for its vitrified clay drainage and ducting systems.

5
Aluminium precision sand castings manufactured for customers in the British, Dutch and German electronics industry on their way through a quality control check point at the Sandy, Bedfordshire foundry of RKB Precision Products. RKB's service covers all stages of manufacture from assistance with initial design, pattern making in a variety of materials, casting machinery as required by specification and painting as necessary.

CPRS review of overseas representation

Sir Kenneth Berrill, Head of the Central Policy Review Staff, who has been asked by the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary to carry out a wide ranging review into all aspects of the United Kingdom's overseas representation has invited written evidence from interested bodies and individuals. Letters and memoranda should be sent to him by the end of February at the Cabinet Office, 70 Whitehall, London SW1.

Discipline in the merchant navy and the fishing industry

Proposals for modernising the systems of discipline on board merchant ships and fishing vessels were contained in two reports published on 5 December 1975.

In forewords to the reports all those concerned were asked to make their views known and to send comments by 16 January to Marine Division, Department of Trade, Sunley House, High Holborn, London WC1V 6LP.

The Department now considers that it has become possible to extend the time allowed for the submission of comments and has decided to extend to 31 March the date by which comments should be sent to Marine Division.

Handling of redundancies provisions brought forward

The Government has decided to bring forward the procedures laid down in the Employment Protection Act dealing with the way redundancies are handled. These procedures will now be brought into force on 8 March. Michael Foot, Secretary of State for Employment, announced this in a written parliamentary answer on 4 February.

An employer planning redundancies of one or more employees will have to consult recognised independent trade unions as soon as possible before they are implemented. Where 100 or more dismissals are involved consultations must in any event begin at least 90 days in advance and where 10 or more dismissals are involved at least 60 days in advance.

The employer must disclose to representatives of the relevant recognised trade unions certain information, including information on the reasons for redundancies, the numbers of employees affected and the way they are to be selected. He will have to consider and reply to any representations.

He will also have to notify the Department of Employment on the same time scale. This will enable the Government to consider any necessary steps to avoid or minimise the redundancies and enable the manpower services to take any necessary measures for redeploying or retraining the workers involved.

For redundancies declared on or after 8 March 1976 an employer will be required to observe all the provisions of the Act relating to consultation with trade union representatives and notification to the Department of Employment.

For redundancies declared before 8 March, the following conditions will apply:

Where individual dismissal notices have been issued before 8 March 1976 to take effect on or before 5 June 1976 the consultation and notification provisions of the Act will not apply provided that each notice has complied with Section 1(1) of the Contracts of Employment Act 1972 (rights of employee to minimum period of notice) and the relevant terms of the employee's own contract of employment.

Where such dismissal notices have not been issued before 8 March 1976 but consultation about the redundancies has begun by then modified provisions will apply provided that the employer has disclosed to representatives of the relevant recognised trade unions in writing before that date at least:

1 the reasons for the proposals;
2 the numbers and categories of employees whom it is proposed to dismiss as redundant; and
3 the total number of employees of any such categories employed by the employer at the establishment in question.

In these cases the requirements for minimum advance periods for consultation with trade union representatives and notification to the Department of Employment will not apply. But employers will be required to notify the local office of the Department of Employment or the Employment Service Agency before the first of the dismissals take effect.

Employers should also note that it will be a condition for payment of Temporary Employment subsidy that notification of the redundancy has been made in accordance with the provisions of the Act including, where appropriate, the transitional provisions.

A leaflet setting out the transitional provisions is obtainable from the Department of Employment, 8 St. James's Square, London SW1Y 4JB.

A further leaflet 'Procedure for Handling Redundancies' (PL 581) explaining the general provisions will be available shortly at any of the Department of Employment's regional or local offices or from any local office of the Employment Service Agency.

A leaflet about the Temporary Employment Subsidy (PL 574 Revised) is also obtainable from these offices.

Deadline for evidence to industrial democracy committee

The Committee on Industrial Democracy has set an early deadline for written evidence because of the tight timetable to which they are working, Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, said in Parliament on 5 February. But anyone having difficulty in meeting the deadline – 1 March – should get in touch with the Secretariat to see if an extension can be arranged.

Answering a Parliamentary Question from Bryan Davies (Enfield North), Mr. Shore said:

'The Committee has held five meetings so far and holds its sixth this week. On 18 December the Committee requested written evidence from all interested parties to be submitted by 1 March. It has set this early date for the receipt of written evidence, because of the tight timetable to which it is working. It is still anxious to hear from anyone with evidence to offer and hopes that anyone having difficulty in submitting evidence by 1 March will get in touch with the Secretariat to see if an extension of the deadline can be arranged.

'The Committee has also commissioned an analysis and evaluation of European experience of industrial democracy from Mr. Eric Batstone of Warwick University, and Mr. Paul Davies of Balliol College, Oxford. It hopes to receive their report by Easter.

'The Committee is moving into its offices at 13 Bloomsbury Square, London, WC1, this week and in future correspondence should be sent to this address.'

The Committee's new address is Industrial Democracy Committee, 13 Bloomsbury Square, London WC1A 2LP (tel. 01-405 9056).

The Committee was set up on 3 December 1975, under the Chairmanship of Sir Allan (now Lord) Bullock, Master of St. Catherine's College, Oxford. The Committee has been asked to report within 12 months and has the following terms of reference:

'Accepting the need for a radical extension of industrial democracy in the control of companies by means of representation on boards of directors and accepting the essential role of trade union organisations in this process, to consider how such an extension can best be achieved, taking into account in particular the proposals of the Trades Union Congress report on industrial democracy, as well as experience in Britain, the EEC and other countries. Having regard to the interest of the national economy, employees, investors and consumers to analyse the implications of such representation for the efficient management of companies and for company law.'

Publications

Merchant shipping: a guide to government publications. Department of Trade. (88 pages. HMSO. 1975. £1.50. ISBN 0 11 511647 8.) This guide was compiled by D. S. Buchanan, then Librarian of the Marine Library, Department of Industry, to furnish a complete list of government publications relating to merchant shipping matters (but not covering shipbuilding) in force in May 1975. The most recent previous listing was the *List of principal acts . . . etc.*, produced by the Ministry of Transport in 1963. The new guide includes Acts, Statutory Instruments and Orders, and Command Papers – covering international conventions and official reports. It also lists advisory publications, including Merchant Shipping Notices. The items are arranged under 33 main subject headings, eg, life-saving appliances, registry of ships, and there is a detailed subject index.

Economic trends: annual supplement 1975. Central Statistical Office. (HMSO. Annual. £1.15 for 1975 issue. ISBN 0 11 723969 0.) This is the first issue of a supplement to the long established monthly produced with the express purpose of filling two known gaps in the range of official statistical publications. The main part of the work consists of long runs of up to 30 years' data for some of the main economic indicators. The tables correspond to those included in *Economic Trends* and cross references are given to their place in the main work. Where appropriate, unadjusted and seasonally adjusted figures are also included. In a few cases slightly different series from those in the monthly publication have been given in this supplement. The other part of the book is a 'notes and definitions' section explaining the items and units used in the main work as well as in the supplement in more detail than is possible in the headings and footnotes of the tables themselves. An alphabetical index with references to the source of each item and to further published statistics completes the work.

Standard International Trade Classification Revision 2. United Nations Statistical Papers Series M, No. 34/Rev. 2. (125 pages. Available from HMSO. 1975. £3.64. ISBN 0 11 904033 6.) This publication which is intended to classify all commodities entering external merchandise trade, supercedes the 1963 revised edition. The main part of the work presents the classification scheme and gives for each basic heading the corresponding heading or statistical subheading of the Brussels Tariff Nomenclature. In addition, reference is also made to the related heading of the earlier edition of the *Standard International Trade Classification* and to the *Classification by broad economic categories*. (United Nations Statistical Papers, Series M, No. 53, 1971.) An alphabetical commodity index is not included, but one is being prepared for publication by the statistical office of the United Nations. The United Nations intends, as far as possible, to base its international compilations of trade-by-commodity statistics on this new revision from the beginning of 1976. Such compilations appear regularly in the *Yearbook of international trade statistics*, *Commodity trade statistics*, the *Monthly bulletin of statistics* and the *World Trade annual*.

Industrial fairs and developing countries. United Nations Industrial Development Organisation. (30 pages. Available from HMSO, 1975. £1.04. ISBN 0 11 903986 9.) This pamphlet is intended for Governments and organisations in developing countries who wish to establish or improve trade fairs. The work serves as an introduction to a planned series of monographs on specific aspects of trade fair organisation, and is divided into five main chapters. Chapter 1 gives a very brief history of the industrial fair from the 12th century, emphasising the increased specialisation of fairs since 1945. Chapter 2 describes the current 'boom' in fairs and examines the motives of exhibitors. The rest of the book deals with more specific problems. Chapter 3 examines the basic problems of establishing a fair centre, including economic viability, timing and frequency, site and building selection and open air displays. A brief case study is given. Chapter 4 covers management problems, including the fair authority, management structure and staffing. Pre-fair arrangements are covered, along with transport, customs problems and insurance. The final chapter deals with promotion, publicity and public relations, including press relations, catalogues, conferences, hospitability and opening day protocol.

An introduction to business law in the Middle East. Edited by Brian Russell. (118 pages. 1975. Oyez Publishing. £5. ISBN 0 85120 272 1.) The contents of the book are based on papers delivered at the conference 'Business law in the Middle East', a conference specialising in the commercial law of Middle Eastern countries, held in London on 14 May 1975. The papers published here follow a strictly practical theme, giving the requirements and background of the region and its business atmosphere for those starting to trade in, or with the countries of the Middle East. The first chapter, by David Suratgar, traces the development of the legal systems of the Middle East, shows the importance of understanding the basis of Islamic law and explains the part the introduction of civil law has played in the process of modernisation. Subsequent chapters outline the practical financial and legal considerations for companies doing business in Arab countries; tax considerations; the practical aspects of doing business in the Middle East; and the role of the government in Middle East trade. A list of company income tax rates and a chart highlighting the key factors in industrial property, trade and investment have been compiled and reproduced as appendices. One particularly helpful feature of the book is that each chapter is followed by questions put to the speakers at the original conference and the answers received.

The acquisition of private companies, by W. J. L. Knight. (153 pages. 1975. Oyez Publishing. £4.60. ISBN 0 85120 260 8.) This book aims to provide a short guide for the practising solicitor who is engaged in the acquisition or disposal of a private company. Such companies account for the vast majority of active companies registered in England under the Companies Acts. The book deals with the legal aspects of transactions where shares are acquired which represent the entire issued share capital of a company, or at least a controlling interest, where the selling shareholders are few enough to enable negotiations to be carried on with them individually. Following an introductory chapter, the author deals with acquisitions by a listed company; stamp duty; taxation; the agreement for sale; and ancillary documents. The appropriate Stock Exchange Regulations (Chapter 4 of *The Admission of Securities to Listing*) and a specimen circular are given as appendices.

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Technology

Britain in space

Because the kudos and publicity tend to fall naturally towards American and Russian manned spaceflight programmes it is easy to overlook the fact that Britain itself is involved in space. In fact there is a respectable amount of work being done in the UK, in satellites, ground stations other facilities and software. It is the launch vehicles – the large rockets – which have largely dropped out of the UK picture in the past decade.

Background

British space activities started in the early 1960's when the civil focus was on scientific and technological satellites. Five national scientific and four technological satellites were launched. In Europe the UK was instrumental in bringing ten nations together to form the European Space Research Organisation (Esro) and took a major part in providing the first Esro satellite, for which UK industry was the prime contractor. Many more Esro satellites followed – the latest being Cos B, Geos, and Isee B, with Exosat yet to come.

Over the years the importance of 'applications satellites' was recognised – these are satellites which provide a service for a specific customer or group of customers – and this led to more effort being put into the applications aspects. In 1971, three Esro applications-orientated programmes were announced: a meteorological satellite, Meteosat; an aeronautical satellite, Aerosat, (in a partnership with the USA and now also Canada); and a European Telecommunications satellite, the pre-operational version of which is known as Ots (Orbital test satellite). More applications were added to the list in 1973: Marots, a pre-operational telecommunications satellite to serve the maritime community; Ariane, which is a heavy-satellite launch vehicle; and Spacelab, a manned orbital laboratory designed to be carried in Nasa's space shuttle. Britain's financial contribution to these projects varies and for the applications programmes is listed in Table 1.

In 1975 a new organisation came into being, European Space Agency (Esa), which absorbed Esro and had much wider objectives. The terms of Esa's mandate, reproduced in a panel on this page, basically provide for European cooperation in space research and technology and their space applications with a view to them being used both for scientific purposes and for operational applications. The previous duties of Esro to further space science in Europe are not affected by this change.

But the important implication to the UK is that the UK is discontinuing its national civil satellite programme in favour of an Esa programme which will cover the UK's interests in the space field. The other member states have also undertaken to phase out national satellite programmes in the same way.

The Department of Industry funds the UK contribution to the Esa application programmes and the Science Research Council provides the UK's contribution to its scientific research programme. In 1976 the UK's total contribution to Esa will be £33 million out of a total Esa budget of £247 million.

TABLE 1

APPROXIMATE COST TO COMPLETION OF ESA APPLICATIONS PROJECTS IN MILLION UNITS OF ACCOUNT AND UK PERCENTAGE SHARE

	MUA	UK percentage
Telecommunications programme (OTS)	190	19
Marots	93	56
Meteosat	169	21
Spacelab	396	6.3
Ariane	562	2.4
Total applications	1,410	

Esa's mandate

Article II of Convention for the Establishment of a European Space Agency

Purpose

The purpose of the Agency shall be to provide for and to promote, for exclusively peaceful purposes, cooperation among European States in space research and technology and their space applications, with a view to their being used for scientific purposes and for operational space applications systems.

a by elaborating and implementing a long-term European space policy, by recommending space objectives to the Member States, and by concerting the policies of the Member States with respect to other national and international organisations and institutions;

b by elaborating and implementing activities and programmes in the space field;

c by co-ordinating the European space programme and national programmes, and by integrating the latter progressively and as completely as possible into the European space programme, in particular as regards the development of satellites;

d by elaborating and implementing the industrial policy appropriate to its programme and by recommending a coherent industrial policy to the Member States.

Industry

Companies involved in space activities are members of the United Kingdom Industrial Space Committee (UKISC) which is jointly sponsored by the Electronic Engineering Association and the Society of British Aerospace Constructors. The members of UKISC are: British Aircraft Corp.; British Hovercraft Corp.; Ferranti Ltd.; Hawker Siddeley Group; Imperial Metal Industries; GEC-Marconi Group; Plessey Company Ltd.; Software Sciences Ltd.; Standard Telephones Group; Bristol Aerojet; Short Brothers; Rolls-Royce (1971) Ltd.

Between them these companies have a wide range of activities and specialities. A list of current major projects and the British participation is contained in Table 2. From this

A review of the Department of Industry's involvement in civil UK space activity and the background to the work of the Joint Space Group, by John Bentley

it will be seen that several British companies are prime contractors for major Esa projects, but in addition British companies provide satellite subsystems for British, European, US domestic and Intelsat satellites.

Another aspect of space technology is the development of ground stations, firstly to control the satellite, and secondly, in a much wider context, to transmit, receive and process signals from communications and applications satellites. We are now moving into the era of development of simpler ground stations to make the use of satellite systems for regional communications economically viable. In addition, UK industry is developing ship-board terminals for use with maritime satellites.

In the field of sounding rockets, which are used to carry scientific equipment or Earth survey cameras into space for a short period at relatively low cost, Britain has produced a range of vehicles of which more than 1,250 have been launched. These include the Skylark, Petrel and Skua types.

The national technology programme

On the national front, the DoI's interest is in assisting UK industry to remain competitive. To this end the Department maintains a domestic space technology development programme involving both work in industry and supporting work at RAE Farnborough. The Department's financial contribution to this joint industry/Department programme is approximately £3 million per year.

TABLE 2

MAJOR PROJECTS UNDER DEVELOPMENT WITH A BRITISH CONTRIBUTION

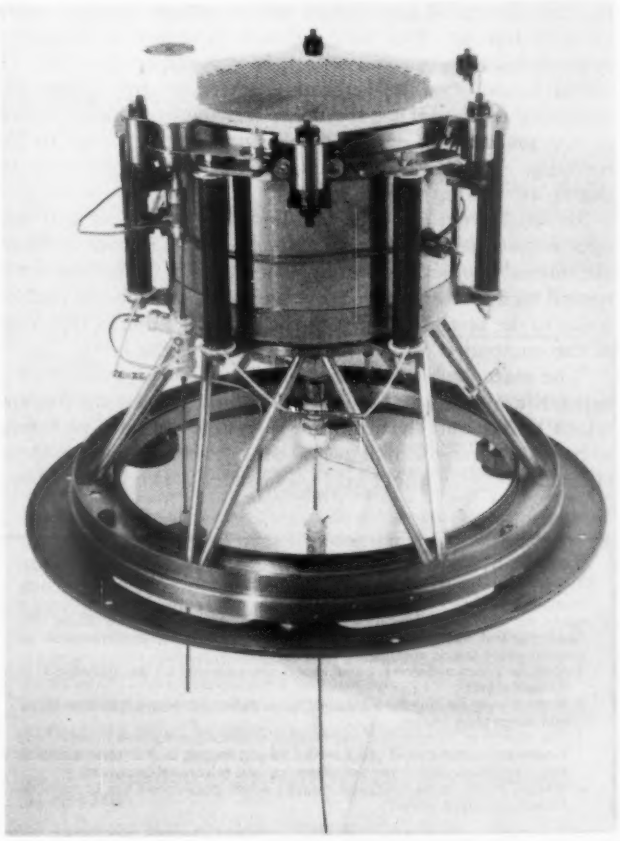
Satellite	Launch date scheduled	Customer	Prime contractor	Other major UK sub-system	Description
Geos	1977	Esa	BAC		Scientific
OTS	1977	Esa	HSD		Communications technology-proving
Marots	1978	Esa	Marconi (payload) HSD (spacecraft)		Maritime communications
UK-6	1978	SRC	Marconi	BAC	Scientific
Comstar-1	1976 (four satellites)	AT and T/ Comsat	Hughes (USA)	BAC	US domestic communications
Meteosat	1977	Esa	Snias (France)	Marconi	Weather
Tiros-N	1978	UK experi-menters	(USA)	Marconi and Plessey	Weather
ISEE-B	1977	Nasa/Esa	Dornier (Germany)	BAC	Scientific
Spacelab	1980	Esa	Erno (Germany)	HSD	Shuttle payload
Ariane (launcher)	1980	Esa	CNES (France)	Ferranti, Marconi and HSD	Launch vehicle

The Joint Space Group

This domestic programme is devised by the Department in close collaboration with industry. In this, the Joint Space Group (JSG) is a key instrument in helping to define the UK industrial policy interests in the context of European and world markets. The JSG is basically composed of two partners – UKISC (UK Industrial Space Committee), representing the industrial space interests, and the Department representing the government. The JSG met for the first time in 1974 and its terms of reference have recently been revised (see panel on the next page).

The chairman of the JSG, Sir Ieuan Maddock, chief scientist at the Department of Industry, describes the function

UK T4A ion thruster.



Members of the Joint Space Group at RAE Farnborough last week. Left to right: R. Thomas (Plessey), A. Hicks (DoI), H. G. R. Robinson (DoI), T. Mayer (Marconi), D. Rowley, (BAC) Sir Ieuan Maddock, D. Cavanagh (DoI), G. Dawson (Standard Telephones), M. O. Robins (Science Research Council), R. Bain (RAE), Group Capt. W. J. O. Morrison (Ferranti) and M. Lovell (Marconi).

of the JSG as the forum in which government and industry can talk and think together on how to mature the UK stance vis-à-vis Europe. 'Our aim', he said, 'is to have as healthy a space industry as we can afford. In this respect the JSG is a useful forum, first to determine where we are going and analysing what part we should be playing in Europe; second as one source of briefing for delegates before they go to Esa meetings. The important thing is that government and industry are talking to each other.'

Sir Ieuan went on: 'The situation is not as simple as it may appear because individual companies in the space industry are mutual competitors through their membership of consortia spread right across Europe, yet we have somehow to find the route to the best solution. A further complication is that some of the companies have allegiances towards the USA.

'The main problem is that with a necessarily small level of expenditure on space (which is also smaller than the amount which France and Germany are spending) we must be careful to be viable and effective in *some* areas, rather than spread our efforts across the whole field ineffectively. The right balance would seem to be to have leadership in chosen areas where our industry has the technological and production resources, and to have sufficient competence in other areas. Currently outside the communications field the commercial payoff is very limited, but things may change and we must keep in touch.

'In all this,' said Sir Ieuan,' the JSG's function is to advise the Department on how best to deploy the limited funds available in order to maximise European potential in space technology and to ensure that the UK industry has a proper role in this.'

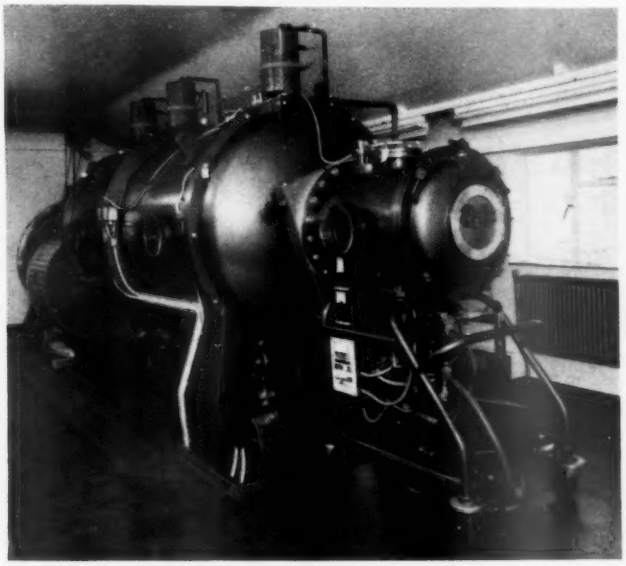
Terms of reference of Joint Space Group

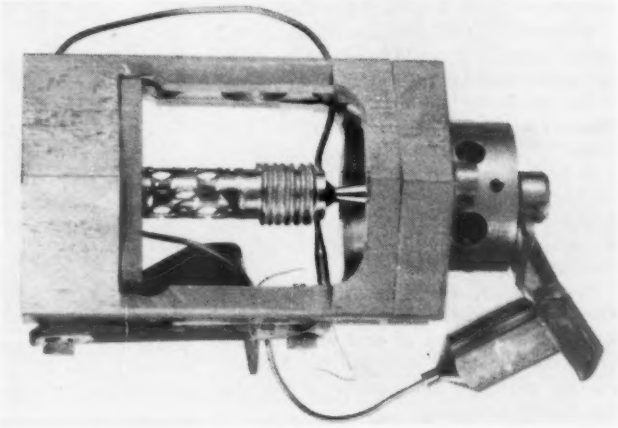
'In the light of the European and other markets for space products and the UK's membership of the European Space Agency the Joint Space Group provides a forum for inter-change of views between senior members of industry, the Department of Industry and other interested government departments on all relevant space topics, and specifically:

1 National policy and international relationships bearing on the exploitation of space markets.
2 Matters arising within the European Space Agency affecting industrial policy and future programmes.
3 The objectives, composition and balance of space applications research and exploratory development programmes having regard to the funds available and the efficient deployment of intramural and extramural resources.
4 Matters arising in the UK space industry where government has, or might be expected to have, a role.'

Meeting at RAE Farnborough

On February 4 the JSG met at the space laboratories of RAE Farnborough and was conducted round the facilities there so that the group as a whole was aware of the work being carried out and the potential of the facilities. In addition to supporting industry in specific areas of research, RAE Farnborough is carrying out a number of tasks for the Department of Industry. These include a general study of spacecraft attitude control systems, whose objective is to examine the various combinations of momentum wheels, reaction wheels and gas jet actuators appropriate to three-axis-control satellites. Work has started on an examination of the technology requirements of future maritime communications satellites. Still at the proposal stage is a study which would examine the on-board computing and computing-like tasks for a variety of spacecraft types (applications and scientific) and which would look at the various methods possible for dealing with them.





Left, RAE ion thruster test facility from vacuum lock end.

Above, RAE electrothermal hydrazine thruster (150 mN thrust) mounted in jig used for vacuum brazing. Magnification approximately 1½ × full size.

On individual items of technology, fundamental work is being done on the design of augmented electrothermal hydrazine thrusters, which maintain attitude control of spacecraft; the development of the ion engine for north-south station keeping of geostationary satellites continues in close collaboration with the Culham Laboratory, and some initial work has been started on communications payload technology. This latter is regarded as a potential growth area and a proposal for an extended work programme is being worked out.

It was stressed to the members of the JSG who toured the facilities that the expertise within Farnborough's Space Department is available to industry and that such collaboration was welcomed.

Members of the JSG were concerned that within Europe as a whole there was a marked surplus of space technology capacity over demand for that capacity, and it is clear that European programmes must be structured so as to include the possibility of commercial sales outside Europe – one of the problems being that those nations which might most need to take advantage of satellite technology (for educational or communications purposes for example) generally did not have the funds to pay for commercial systems. Some form of financial arrangement to cater for this market may have to be worked out.

Sir Ieuan Maddock had the last word on leaving the RAE: 'We have £*x* million to spend on space, but we have no national space programme as such. Each of our national users goes to a different source – the Post Office is a member of the Intelsat consortium; the SRC spends money in order to sustain a space science programme; the Ministry of Defence space work has to mesh in with Nato requirements. The Department of Industry's role is to build up the strength of the space industry: to give it the best chance we can in the context of punitively small funding. In this respect we are the only people specifically gunning for sustaining space technology itself.'

To which the only possible answer could be: 'Watch this space.'

Esa member states

Belgium; Denmark; France; Germany; Holland; Italy; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; United Kingdom; Ireland, has signed convention and will therefore become full member when convention comes into force); Austria – for Spacelab programme only; Norway – for Marots programme only.

Finance for technology

The National Research Development Corporation provides financial and other support for technological developments of potential commercial importance. NRDC promotes the adoption by industry of new products and processes invented in government laboratories, universities and elsewhere. NRDC is participating in joint ventures with industry on an increasing scale. By supporting projects NRDC makes it possible for individual firms or groups of companies to undertake and accelerate the development and production of new products and processes of national importance. The corporation welcomes submissions in confidence from firms who have promising new projects to launch in any branch of industry or commerce. The conditions for its considering proposals of this kind are set out in a leaflet which may be obtained on application, either by writing to the National Research Development Corporation, PO Box 236, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET; or by telephoning 01-828 3400.

Technology News

Nuclear power stations make progress

Two twin nuclear power stations, Hinkley Point 'B' in Bridgwater, and Hunterston 'B' on the Ayrshire coast in began supplying power to the National Grid this week.

Hinkley Point 'B' has two advanced gas-cooled reactors designed to give a combined maximum output of 1,250 MW. It stands next to Hinkley Point 'A', an earlier version of the Magnox type, supplying only 500 MW, from which the AGR has been developed.

At both stations, steam from the first reactor has been used to synchronise the turbo-generators. This means that the phase and frequency of power is in tune with the National Grid.

Power is likely to be switched on and off, as low power tests are carried out on the reactors. But by the end of next week the two generators should be on again continuously, working towards a full commercial contribution some time in May.

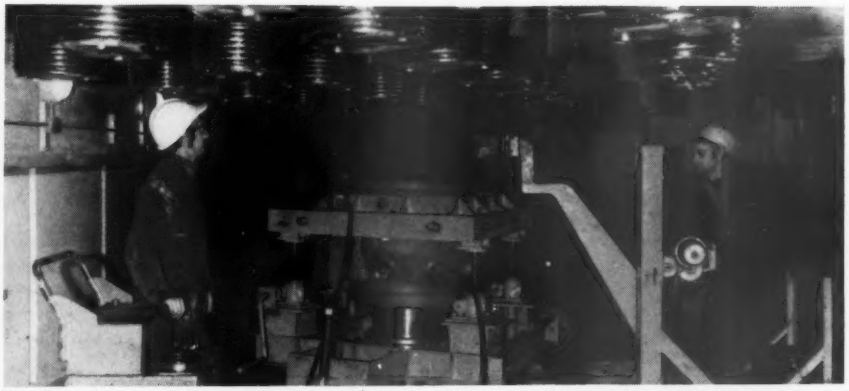
At Hinkley Point 'B', the two reactors are fuelled by enriched uranium dioxide. The reactors are contained within separate cylindrical pre-stressed concrete pressure vessels.

The reactors and turbines are housed in a single complex with a central block for fuel handling, instrumentation and control.

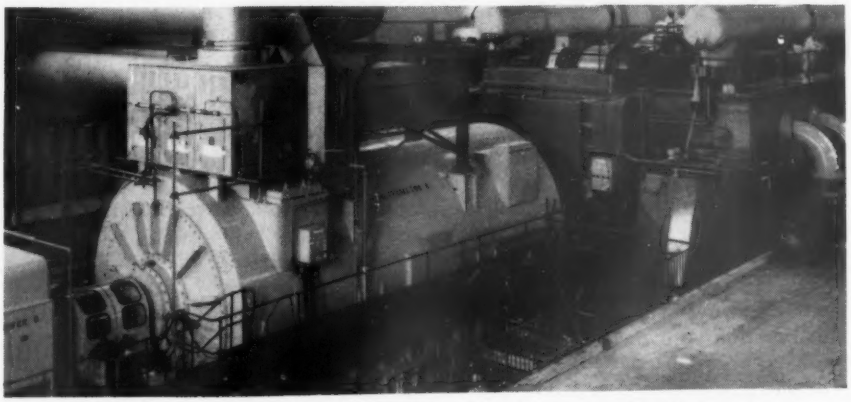
In addition to the net output of 1,250 MW from the main plant the station also has four 17.5 MW gas turbine generators, which can provide emergency supplies to the main plant.

Site work began at Hinkley in September 1967. The station's current estimated cost is £159 million, against the original estimate of £112 million.

With its stringent safety precautions, it is designed to ensure that operating staff and the surrounding population are safeguarded from the radioactive materials inside the reactors.



The first of two concrete pressure vessels has just been completed at Dungeness 'B' nuclear power station. In each vessel, constructed by Balfour Beatty & Co. Ltd., ducts had been pre-formed to take 966 prestressing tendons. In the picture, a vertical tendon is being locked in position by Simon Engineering of Stockport.



The 660 MW turbo-generator unit at Hinkley Point 'B' which was synchronised on to the National Grid this week. Overall design and construction was carried out by the Nuclear Power Group Ltd., now re-named the Nuclear Power Co. (Risley) on becoming part of the new National Nuclear Corporation.

A view of Hunterston 'B' on the Ayrshire coast, which began supplying power to the National Grid this week. With a capacity of 1250 megawatts, it could supply the power needs of an area like greater Glasgow. The £130 million station is scheduled to have its two reactors fully operational by the end of the year.

Dungeness B

The first of the two concrete pressure vessels at Dungeness 'B' nuclear power station has been completed (top picture, opposite).

In each vessel, which was constructed by the main contractor, Balfour Beatty, ducts have been pre-formed to take 966 pre-stressing tendons fabricated from 2,000 tonnes of wire.

After installation, each tendon was loaded to 742 tonnes and an analysis of the stressing records for the completed vessels revealed that the tendons behaved as forecast.

The quality and strength of the tendons can be monitored during the life of the station by removal for inspection and replacement, and restressing.

Stressing started in the autumn of 1975 and the stressing of the second vessel which should be completed in April, is now under way.

Understanding reactors

Courses on aspects of reactor systems, especially relevant to those having an interest in fast reactors and liquid metal technology, are as in previous years to be held at the Fast Reactor Training Centre, Dounreay, during 1976. The courses are designed to meet the needs of most staff working in reactor and allied fields, including professional engineers and scientists and senior staff concerned with planning and the formulation of policy. To the end of 1975, about 390 people had passed through the centre, including 60 from overseas.

Some of the courses planned for 1976 are: an introduction to reactor technology; a two-week course intended for relatively new entrants to the field, but also suited to those wishing to extend their knowledge of reactor systems in general. It deals not only with fast reactors, but with other major British systems. (3-14 May, 1-12 November); and fast reactor technology and operations; a comprehensive four-week course on fast reactors, including some work on liquid metal technology and the processing of fast reactor fuels. It is particularly suitable for experienced engineers and scientists. (6 September-1 October).

There is also a short one-week course on sodium technology and handling, which deals specifically with the practice of liquid metal handling. It includes both theoretical and practical work and is, therefore, suitable as a basic course in the subject. (1-5 March, 4-8 October.)

The senior executives course in fast reactors is intended for senior staff who wish to gain some understanding of the place of fast reactors in the energy economy. It reviews the state of the art in fast reactor technology, and future trends and expectations. (7-11 June.)

Further details of the courses offered, including proposed dates, fees, and other information can be obtained from: The Manager, Fast Reactor Training Centre, Dounreay Experimental Reactor Establishment, Thurso, Caithness KW14 7TZ, Scotland.

A pilot plastics recycling plant accepting waste plastic sacks. The machine will also take plastic beer and milk crates, bottles, and plastic sweepings. The material is first shredded in a grinding machine and reduced to a powder containing dirt and dust. It is then washed and recycled into granules which are fed into a moulding machine to emerge as a new product. This is part of research into the recovery and recycling of petroleum based materials, including plastics, being carried out at the Department of Metallurgy and Materials Science at Liverpool University. The object is to provide an uncomplicated plant and process which can be installed in factories where thermo-plastic materials are handled in quantity, to clean, separate and re-granulate materials which would otherwise be wasted.

DOE register of research 1975

The Department of the Environment Register of Research 1975, which has now been published, describes current and recently completed research projects in the following fields: Part 1 Building and Construction; Part 2 Environmental Planning; Part 3 Roads and Transport; and Part 4 Environmental Pollution.

The Register of Resarch was established in 1974 to provide information on subjects relating to the Department's interests, giving access to the information for the use of research workers, institutions, organisations commissioning research and planning research programmes, and the users of research results.

The four volumes now published contain details of the 5,000 projects submitted in response to the 1975 Survey of Research, obtained from some 2,000 United Kingdom sources including central government, consultants, nationalised and private industry, research institutes, associations and councils.

Each volume has been designed for easy reference. The information given on the projects consists of title and short description; names of the research workers; where the research is being carried out; sponsorship and finance; and starting and expected completion dates. Details are also given of publications arising from the research. The indexes by subjects, research workers, contributing organisations and sponsors are supplemented by lists of addresses and telephone numbers.

Copies of the Register are being sent to all the organisations which have contributed and so will be available in university and specialist libraries.

Copies are also available from Headquarters Library, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 3EB (tel 01-212 4328), for parts 1, 2 and 4: the Roads and Transport volume, Part 3, is available from the Transport and Road Research Laboratory, Crowthorne, Berks (tel. Crowthorne 3131).

The Register operates from three centres. Each is responsible for specific subject areas, and deals with inquiries by post, telephone or telex.

The centres for inquiries are: planning and pollution – Headquarters Library; transport – Transport and Road Research Laboratory; and building and construction – Building Research Establishment.

Information received too late for inclusion in the main volumes, and some projects falling outside the definition of research will be published shortly in a supplementary volume in the DOE Headquarters Library, 'Sources of Information' series.

Another survey of research will be conducted in 1976. Any organisation or research body which has not yet been contacted and which has projects within the scope of the Register is invited to contact the Research Section of the DOE Headquarters Library.

British breathing apparatus wins US approval

A British single cylinder, self-contained compressed air set that is carried on the back, and developed for use in toxic environs, is the first non-American apparatus to receive approval by the US National Institute of Safety and Health, under the stringent CRO 30, Part 11 Specification. It is also more compact as all controls and connections are grouped together with the cylinder valve, instead of being spread over the equipment and harness.

The equipment is designed for fire brigades, and as part of the store of emergency gear in mines and on board ship. It can also be used in the petrochemical industry for such routine tasks as cleaning out fuel tanks.

Manufactured by Siebe Gorman and Co. Ltd., Cwmbran, Wales, the AirMaster apparatus is designed for rescue and maintenance work. It provides complete respiratory protection, independent of the surrounding atmosphere, for up to 30 minutes. The equipment is fitted with an independent auxiliary air-line adaptor which enables air to be taken from a fixed or mobile air supply, from another compressed air cylinder or to attach a second mask for rescue work. A fingertight handwheel connection, designed to accept American manufactured air cylinders, joins the cylinder to the reducing valve assembly and an adjustable quick-release metal strap holds the cylinder firmly on an anodised alloy back plate.

An airtight bayonet fitting, introduced into the low pressure air hose, linking the reducing valve and demand valve, allows the mask and demand valve to be separated instantly from the apparatus for cleaning and maintenance. A threaded handwheel connection between face mask and demand valve makes it easy for individual face masks to be issued.

Putting the map on the computer

GINO-F, the general purpose computer graphics software package developed by the Department of Industry's Computer-Aided Design Centre, was introduced to the international market at the end of 1975 with three sales in North America and one in Australia.

In North America two sales were by CADC's Detroit agent, Scientific Consultants Inc., to the ACTS computer bureau running a nation wide service on GE equipment centred in Florida and to the Polycom computer bureau service of Toronto running on Honeywell 6000. The third sale was made by CADC's Massachusett's agent, Innovative Computer Systems Inc. to Harvard University on a DEC System 10.

ICL (Australia) act as CADC's agent in Australia and they have made a sale of both GINO-F and CADC's engineering draughting soft-ware MEDALS to a Melbourne firm of architects, Howden and Wardrop Ltd. They own a PDP11/40 with a GT44 refreshed display system. CADC's UK technical experts on PDP11s, Bradley Associates, are flying out to help with the installation.

Already in 1976 CADC has extended its international market coverage beyond North America and Australia. A sales agency agreement has been signed with Kyokuto Boeki Kaisha Ltd. in Japan where import restrictions on computer software were recently lifted. A further agency agreement is also being negotiated in South Africa.

GINO-F, Graphical Input and Output Fortran, package handles graphical computer data, such as drawings, plans and maps, and converts it into digitised form. It is aimed at providing computer output for both financial and technical management whether involved in planning, design or manufacture.

MEDALS, Modular Engineering Draughting And Library System, package is designed to allow engineers to take advantage of a computer's capability of producing top quality production drawings at high speed.

Further information from Stuart Grove, Computer Aided Design Centre, 25 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2ET. (Tel. 01-589 7496, Telex 81420.)

High quality printing made cheaper

Printed pictures often start from a colour photograph. The printer's problem is to take these originals, separate their colour content, adjust their size and generate plates or cylinders so that when printed using the four inks, (yellow, magenta, cyan and black) a facsimile is produced.

Originally this process was carried out using hand retouching or photographic methods. In 1969 Crosfield Electronics introduced a colour scanner producing separations which did not require any correction and enlarged to the final print size. They have now introduced a new version, the Magnascan 550, controlled by a digital computer, which will produce high quality separation economically, provided – and this is an important proviso, the studio is handling 70 or more sets each week.

Data processing – cutting the paper tape

Data preparation and processing costs have been going up, but there are now ways of carrying this out without punched cards and paper tape, which have been criticised as noisy, expensive and awkward to use.

In the new system, of which Redifon offer an example, the operator keys-in the data and the system validates it there and then. The company has now produced a smaller, more economical version, called Redicheck, to meet the needs of users with from two to 32 keystations.

New techniques in metal forming

BAC has developed a new superplastic metal forming technique for the titanium alloy used for the structural design work taking place at Filton. The manufacture of complex shapes and a reduction in the number of separate parts is now possible, providing a significantly greater design freedom.

These techniques have been successfully applied in the manufacture of a 4.2m long titanium alloy vacuum chamber, built to the order of the European Nuclear Research Organisation CERN, based in Geneva, Switzerland.

Interest in the potential use of superplastic forming for fabricating titanium alloy structures began at BAC with the need to reduce manufacturing costs. This was particularly relevant to Concorde which, in common with the vast majority of modern civil and military aircraft, incorporates areas of titanium structure.

The experience gained by BAC with this method was of particular interest to CERN in relation to their work on nuclear energy sources. Experiments with colliding atomic particles require the use of a complex pattern of intersecting metal tubes along which the particles are accelerated. The vacuum chamber, which forms part of the intersection-type storage rings had to have walls thin enough to allow monitoring of the proton beams at the collision points, but at the same time be capable of withstanding high vaccum conditions (less than 10^{-11} torr) at 300 deg C.

The titanium alloy sheet used internationally for most structural applications is known by its composition – titanium 6Al, 4V. At normal temperatures this material is extremely difficult to deform accurately because of 'spring back', making it necessary to form at 650/700 deg. C. This involves the use of expensive precision matched press tools, and even at this temperature multi-stage forming is often necessary.

At 950 deg. C. the material becomes extremely malleable and takes on the characteristics of molten glass. While forming at this higher temperature was therefore desirable, several inherent problems related to the effects of oxidisation and contamination first had to be overcome. These problems were extremely significant due to the highly reactive nature of titanium at 950 deg. C. and a large proportion of the development work at BAC Filton has been directed to preserving the original quality of the material and to minimise degradation due to contamination.

At this temperature it was also necessary to carry out an extensive programme of investigation into the suitability of available tool material to withstand the high temperature environment with the pressures required for forming components.

All these problems have been overcome and BAC has now evolved a technically acceptable process for the manufacture of high integrity components which does not depend upon operator skill.

Addresses of ECGD offices

The Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) is a Government Department providing export credit insurance for United Kingdom exporters and insurance against political risks for new investments overseas. Although credit insurance is its main service to exporters the Department offers them a number of others. Firstly the Bank Guarantee scheme, enables exporters who are eligible to obtain export finance from their bank at a special low rate. Major projects carried out by British firms in overseas countries can be financed by the buyer credit technique which gives the exporter the bulk of his payment on shipment of the goods. Similar to this is the line of credit facility which extends the buyer credit principle to include contracts often with an individual value as low as £10,000. ECGD now insures 35 per cent of all UK exports. For full details of all ECGD services contact Publicity Branch, ECGD, Aldermanbury House, Aldermanbury, London EC2P 2EL, telephone 01-606 6699 extension 258, telex 883601, or get in touch with one of the offices listed below.

Central London

London, EC1 to EC4, WC1 and 2, W1 and SW1.

D. G. Hake, Waverley House, 7-12 Noel Street, London W1V 3PB. Tel. 01-437 2292, Telex 24105.

South London

London SE, SW2–20 and W2–14, Kent, Surrey (excluding the administrative district of Spelthorne), East and West Sussex, the eastern part of Hampshire, the Isle of Wight and the Channel Isles.

T. W. Hawes, 320 Purley Way, Croydon, Surrey CR0 4XJ. Tel. 01-686 9921. Telex 946998.

North London

London N, NW, E, the southern parts of Essex, Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire, the Slough, Burnham and Datchet area of Berkshire and the Spelthorne district of Surrey.

C. W. Gentry, 593–599 High Road, Tottenham, N17 6SW. Tel. 01-808 4570. Telex 263615.

Belfast

The six counties of Northern Ireland.

R. H. Forsyth, River House, High Street, Belfast BT1 2BE. Tel. 0232 31743. Telex 74577.

Birmingham

Leicester, Nottinghamshire, Salop, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, West Midlands, the southern part of Derbyshire and that part of Hereford and Worcester formerly known as Worcestershire.

F. Wilmot, Colmore Centre, 115 Colmore Row, Birmingham B3 3SB. Tel. 021-233 1771. Telex 33132

Bristol

Dyfed, Powys, Gwent, West, Mid and South Glamorgan, Gloucester, Avon, Wiltshire, Oxon, Dorset, Somerset, Devon and Cornwall. That part of Hereford and Worcester formerly known as Herefordshire, Berkshire except the Slough, Burnham and Datchet areas and the western part of Hampshire.

R. A. Bounds, Robinson Building, 1 Redcliffe Street, Bristol BS1 6NP. Tel. 0272 299971. Telex 44248.

Cambridge

Bedfordshire, Cambridge, Norfolk, Northamptonshire and Suffolk, the northern parts of Essex, Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire, and the southern part of Lincolnshire including the City of Lincoln.

H. Watson, Three Crowns House, 72-80 Hills Road, Cambridge CB2 1NJ. Tel. 0223 68801. Telex 81624.

Glasgow

Scotland and the Outer Isles.

F. R. Burge, Fleming House, 134 Renfrew Street, Glasgow G3 6TL. Tel. 041-332 8707. Telex 77130.

Leeds

Durham, Tyne & Wear, Northumberland, Cleveland, North, West and South Yorkshire, Humberside and the northern part of Lincolnshire.

W. Ford, West Riding House, 67 Albion Street, Leeds LS1 5AA. Tel. 0532 450631. Telex 55125.

Manchester

Gwynedd, Clwyd, Cheshire, Merseyside, Greater Manchester, Lancashire, Cumbria, the northern part of Derbyshire and Isle of Man.

R. H. K. Hughes, Elisabeth House, St. Peter's Square, Manchester M2 4AJ. Tel. 061-228 3621. Telex 667756.

New York

In the United States of America exporters can obtain assistance from the Department's resident Representative for the USA and Canada.

J. K. Sedman c/o British Trade Development Office, 150 East 58th Street, New York 10022 USA. Tel. 212-593 2258. Telex 420543.

Parliament

Monday, 2 February

Chrysler

Mr. Neville Trotter (Tynemouth) asked if the continued provision of Government aid to Chrysler would be made dependent on the cessation of unofficial strikes.

Mr. Kaufman answered: Under clause 5 (2) (vii) of the Agreement signed on 5 January, the Secretary of State is not obliged to make to Chrysler United Kingdom (CUK) any advance in respect of the Guaranteed Loan or the Secured Loan, unless CUK shall (if so required by the Secretary of State) have certified prior to such advance that in its opinion the progress being made towards the objectives of the Stoke Linwood and Truck Plan and the C6 Programme is sufficient to warrant the continuation of the capital expenditure envisaged by those plans; and in giving such a certificate CUK shall have regard particularly to the question of whether satisfactory agreements between the CUK Group and representatives of its workforce have been concluded, or whether there is a reasonable prospect that such agreements will be concluded within a reasonable time concerning numbers to be employed, productivity and related matters, and whether any such agreements which have been concluded are being satisfactorily implemented.'

BSC's coal imports

Mr. John Evans (Newton) asked how much coal the British Steel Corporation imports and from which countries; and what percentage of total coal imports this represents.

'The British Steel Corporation base their coal procurement policy on available domestic supplies and keep in close touch with the NCB about their requirements,' said Mr. Kaufman. 'But some coking coal of a quality not sufficiently available in the UK needs to be imported. Details of tonnages purchased abroad and the sources of imports are commercial matters for the Corporation.'

Solar energy

Mr. Peter Rost (South East Derbyshire) asked what research and development is being sponsored currently by the Department of Industry on solar energy. He also asked for a list of projects receiving financial support from the Department, and the total budget for such programmes projected over each of the next five years.

Mr. Carmichael replied: 'The projects on solar energy currently receiving financial support from my Department are one on developing photo-voltaic solar cells for terrestrial use and another dealing with basic material development. These are being funded jointly with industry, and my Department's contribution is expected to be £100,000, most of which will be incurred during the current financial year, the balance in 1976/77.

'I anticipate that my Department will contribute to some further solar energy work by industry and universities during the next few years.'

Industrial Director, North West Region

Questions were asked by Mr. Robert Kilroy-Silk (Ormskirk) on the qualifications laid down for the Industrial Director, North West Region; how many persons have applied for the job and whether the appointment has been made.

Mr. MacKenzie answered: 'Regional Industrial Directors must have senior managerial experience in industry or finance, preferably both. They must have the ability to discuss financial issues with top managements, to assess the viability of companies and of their proposals and to encourage the planning and decision making of industrial and commercial companies in a positive manner.

'126 applications were received in response to a national advertisement for the post in the North West Region, and senior officials of my Department and the former Industrial Director for the Region formed the Selection Panel. I hope that an appointment will be made shortly.'

Consumer Advice Centres

Mr. John MacGregor (South Norfolk) asked what response the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection has had from local authorities on her allocation of grants for the setting up of consumer advice centres.

Mr. Williams said: 'The applications we received from local authorities considerably exceeded the total funds available for grants, and the whole of the £1.4 million available has been allocated.'

Selective Price Restraint Scheme

Questions on the Selective Price Restraint Scheme were asked by Mr. Ioan Evans (Aberdare), Mr. John Cartwright (Greenwich, Woolwich East), Sir George Young (Ealing, Acton), Mr. Norman Lamont (Kingston upon Thames), and Mr. Peter Morrison (City of Chester).

Mr. Williams said: 'My Rt. Hon. Friend described the outcome of her discussions on the Selective Price Restraint Scheme in her Statement on 27 January. The Scheme comes into operation for manufacturing industry today, and will do so for retailing and for service industries on 16 February.'

Mr. Nicholas Ridley (Cirencester and Tewkesbury asked: 'What was, or will be, the cost to public funds of negotiating the latest voluntary price restraint agreement, advertising it, the kits to issue to shopkeepers in connection with it and printing and publishing and postage in connection with it, respectively?'

'There has been no significant expenditure on the negotiation of the Selective Price Restraint Scheme,' said Mr. Maclennan. 'The final plans for publicity will depend on discussions on the details of the Scheme which are still continuing. I am, therefore, unable to give a precise estimate on costs, but I expect them to be in the region of £450,000 for advertising to the public, and £25,000 for advertising in the trade press. The cost of printing the retailer kits is estimated at £330,000, plus £110,000 for distribution and postage.'

Ministers at the Department of Industry

Secretary of State for Industry: Eric Varley
Ministers of State: Gregor MacKenzie
Gerald Kaufman
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Lord Melchett
Neil Carmichael

Ministers at the Department of Trade

Secretary of State for Trade: Peter Shore
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Eric Deakins
Stanley Clinton Davis

Ministers at the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection

Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection:
Shirley Williams
Minister of State: Alan Williams
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State: Robert Maclennan

DPCP

Mr. Ridley wanted to know the total cost of the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection and how many people are employed in it.

Mr. Williams replied that expected expenditure by the Department on salaries and administrative costs, including allied services, is expected to be £3.2 million in 1975/76, and the number of staff in post on 1 January 1976 was 377. This includes 62 staff at the Metrication Board.

Oil prices

Mr. Robert Banks (Harrogate) asked what proportion of the total cost to the consumer of the recent oil price increases was due to the fall in the value of the pound sterling.

'Nearly one-half,' said Mr. Maclennan.

Mr. Nicholas Winterton (Macclesfield) asked for an estimate of the total cost to the consumer of the recent oil price increases.

Mr. Maclennan told him: 'If the full permitted increases are passed on, it is estimated that this would eventually raise the Retail Price Index by 1 per cent.'

Mr. Peter Emery (Honiton) asked if the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection is satisfied that the price rise in December of 27 per cent on domestic heating oil is justified; and what estimate has been made of the effect of this on retirement pensioners.

Mrs. Williams replied: 'The December increases in the prices of oil products, including oils used for domestic heating, were justified under the Price Code. Subject to the Code, companies may distribute cost increases over the various products in a range in accordance with their commercial judgement. Background information is given in the Price Commission's Report for 1 September to 30 November. The increase in the price of domestic heating oil is estimated to have added about one-fifth of 1 per cent to the one person pensioner household index and about one-eighth of 1 per cent to the two person pensioner household index.'

Cost of petrol

Mr. Stephen Ross (Isle of Wight) asked what steps are being taken to ensure that cuts in the price of petrol are extended to the south of England and, in particular, the Isle of Wight.

Mrs. Williams said: 'Subject to compliance with the Price Code, oil companies and petrol retailers are free to determine selling prices in accordance with their commercial judgement and taking account of the local competitive situation.'

Packaged foodstuffs

Mr. Kilroy-Silk inquired about plans to change the law requiring packaged foodstuffs to contain a minimum weight.

Mr. Williams answered: 'I informed the House on 28 November 1974 that the Government accepted the need to adopt the average weight system for prepacked foodstuffs following a decision by the United Nations Committee concerned.

'The Working Party, the setting up of which I referred to when the House debated the subject on 28 November 1974, will be reporting its recommendations later this year; and I hope to introduce the appropriate legislation in due course.'

Metrication in food industry

Sir John Hall (Wycombe) asked what representations have been made by food manufacturers about the unresolved problems arising from the forthcoming introduction of metric units for prepackaged foods.

'We are in constant touch with the food industry on general metrication problems,' Mr. Williams answered. 'The Food Manufacturers' Federation wrote to my Department on 19 December saying that they wished to discuss the question of legal cut off dates for imperial sizes of Prescribed Quantity foods. A meeting with the Federation has been arranged for 5 February.'

Cost of living

Mr. Tim Rathbone (Lewes) asked about the increase in the food price index over the past 12 months.

'Over the 12 months to December 1975 the Food Index rose by 26 per cent,' said Mr. Maclennan.

Mr. Adley asked what was the increase in the cost of living for the calendar year 1973; and what was the comparable figure for 1974 and 1975.

Mr. Maclennan answered: 'Over the 12 months to December 1973, the General Index of Retail Prices increased by 10.6 per cent. The comparable figures for 1974 and 1975 were 19.1 per cent and 24.9 per cent, respectively.'

Mr. Mike Thomas (Newcastle upon Tyne East) and Mr. Peter Bottomley (Greenwich, Woolwich West) asked what were the annual, six monthly and three monthly rates of inflation at the last available date and what the 12 month increase in the retail price index is.

Mr. Maclennan replied: 'The year-on-year figure for the all items index in December was 24.9 per cent; the three months figure for all items was 3.9 per cent, or 18.1 per cent expressed at an annual rate; the six months' figure for the all items index was 6.5 per cent or 14.0 per cent expressed at an annual rate.'

Mr. Ralph Howell (North Norfolk) asked for an estimate of the amount of concealed inflation in the economy induced by subsidies and price controls.

'But for food subsidies, the RPI in December would have been about 1 per cent and the Food Index 4 per cent higher,' said Mr. Maclennan. 'It is very difficult to quantify the impact of price controls, but there is no doubt that the Price Commission continues to save the consumer significant sums. Food subsidies and price controls are essential elements of our total programme to bring down inflation as we are now successfully doing.'

Figures were asked for by Mr. Philip Holland (Carlton) showing the rise in retail prices indices or their equivalent for a 12 month period to the latest possible date in the United Kingdom, the USA, Japan and each of the member states of the EEC.

Mr. Maclennan gave the following information:

Year on year percentage increases have been:

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.
Belgium	15.6	15.5	14.8	14.4	13.7	12.5	12.0	11.4	10.9	11.2	11.2
Denmark	13.4	13.4	13.3	12.4	12.2	10.6	9.8	9.7	8.8	4.6	—
France	14.5	13.9	13.5	12.7	12.1	11.7	11.1	11.0	10.7	10.2	9.9
Ireland (Quarterly)		23.8			24.4			19.0			16.8
Italy	24.1	23.3	20.3	20.4	19.7	19.0	17.1	15.3	13.0	12.4	11.3
Japan	17.4	13.9	14.2	13.4	13.7	13.7	11.9	10.4	10.3	9.6	8.1
Luxembourg	11.0	10.1	10.6	10.5	10.1	10.7	10.4	10.6	10.6	11.5	11.1
Netherlands	11.1	10.1	10.2	10.3	10.4	10.3	10.5	10.7	10.4	9.9	9.4
UK	19.9	19.9	21.2	21.7	25.0	26.1	26.3	26.9	26.6	25.9	25.2
USA	11.7	11.1	10.3	10.3	9.5	9.3	9.7	8.6	7.8	7.6	7.3
West Germany	6.1	5.8	5.9	6.1	6.1	6.4	6.2	5.9	6.1	5.8	5.4

Source: OECD Main Economic Indicators.

Food prices

Mr. Robert Adley (Christchurch and Lymington) asked what was the percentage increase in the price of the following commodities for the 12 months ended 31 December 1973: tea, sugar, butter, potatoes, coffee, bread and milk; and what are the comparable percentage increases for the 12 months ended 31 December 1974 and 31 December 1975, respectively.

Mr. Maclennan said: 'The percentage changes in the prices of tea, sugar, butter, potatoes, coffee, bread and milk for the 12 months ended December 1973, with comparable percentage changes for the 12-month periods ended December 1974 and December 1975, were as follows:

	Dec. 1972 to Dec. 1973	Dec. 1973 to Dec. 1974	Dec. 1974 to Dec. 1975
Tea	+0.2	+8.1	+16.7
Sugar (granulated)	+17.8	+102.0	+12.3
Butter	−7.0	+14.1	+34.5
Potatoes	+11.2	+34.7	+141.3
Coffee (instant)	+10.1	+20.1	+5.6
Bread	+17.0	+16.5	+18.8
Milk (fresh)	—	+9.2	+69.8

Price of potatoes

Questions on the price of potatoes were asked by Mr. Toby Jessel, Mr. Peter Rost, Mr. John Stonehouse (Walsall North), Mr. Edwin Wainwright (Dearne Valley) and Mr. Robert Adley.

Mr. Maclennan answered: 'The average price collected for the Retail Price Index on 9 December 1975, the latest date for which this information is available, was 7.5p per lb for whites and 8p per lb for reds. Average retail prices in February 1975 were 3.1p for whites and 3.6p for reds; and in February 1974 2.4p for whites and 2.9p for reds.'

Mr. Tim Renton (Mid Sussex) asked about excessive profiteering in the current retail price of potatoes.

Mr. Maclennan said that no evidence had been found of excessive margins in distribution but he had asked the Price Commission for monthly reports.

Mr. Frank R. White (Bury and Radcliffe) asked for an investigation of allegations by the Fish Fryer's Association that fish and potato stocks are being withheld from the market in an attempt to manipulate and maintain artificially high prices based on fictitious shortages.

'The shortage of potatoes is regretably not fictitious but results from a one-third decline in supply following a growing season in which yields per acre were sharply reduced,' said Mr. Maclennan. 'There is no evidence that either potato or fish stocks are being withheld in order to manipulate prices.'

Parliament continued

Cost of fish

Mr. Kevin McNamara (Kingston upon Hull Central) asked when the Price Commission's Review into the cost of fish would be published.

Mr. Maclennan answered: 'I understand that the Price Commission's study of prices and margins in the distribution of fish is virtually complete. I hope that it will be possible to publish it within the next two months.'

Export credits

Mr. Peter Viggers (Gosport) asked if the Secretary of State for Trade is satisfied with the terms of overseas trade for which export credits are provided.

'Yes Sir,' said Mr. Deakins. 'We are, however, always making improvements to the facilities which we provide and we take due account of the terms offered by our trade competitors.'

Credit terms for shipbuilders

Mr. Frederick Willey (Sunderland North) asked what steps are being taken to ensure that British shipbuilders tendering for foreign orders are able to offer credit facilities matching those being offered by their competitors.

'There is an OECD understanding between the world's major ship exporting countries on the maximum credit terms for exported ships,' said Mr. Deakins. 'Support from ECGD is available to British shipbuilders within the terms of this understanding. We believe that this enables them to offer credit facilities which are fully competitive with the facilities offered by foreign builders. ECGD already investigates alleged breaches of the OECD understanding and, if substantiated, would be prepared to consider providing support on a matching basis. Thus, further steps do not at present seem to be necessary.'

Manchester Airport

Mr. Frank Hatton (Manchester, Moss Side) asked when the Secretary of State for Trade expects to publish the consultation paper on regional airports; and with whom he intends to hold discussions regarding the recommendation of the Civil Aviation Authority to develop Manchester Airport as a major international airport.

Mr. Clinton Davis answered: 'My Rt. Hon. Friend hopes to publish the regional airports consultation document shortly after Easter. It will take into account advice from the Civil Aviation Authority on future airport development and will serve as a basis for consultations with all interested organisations, including local authorities, amenity groups, and representatives of both sides of industry.'

Duke of Kent's appointment to BOTB

Mr. Doug Hoyle (Nelson and Colne) asked:' Why has the Duke of Kent been appointed as the vice-chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board; what qualifications he has for this position; and how much time he will be able to devote to this post in view of his other commitments?'

Mr. Deakins replied: 'My Rt. Hon. Friend is making this appointment to draw on the Duke of Kent's experience of supporting British exporters at home and overseas, and on his knowledge in the field of electronics where he is the Deputy Chairman of the National Electronics Council. It is made at the suggestion of the Chairman of the BOTB and has the full approval of the Board, which the Duke joined in February 1975 when its membership was expanded also to include representatives of the TUC, the CBI and the Association of British Chambers of Commerce. His new appointment will be part-time and I see no difficulty in fitting it in with his other commitments.'

Bankruptcies

Mr. Adley asked how many firms went bankrupt during 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974 and 1975.

Mr. Clinton Davis gave the following numbers of Receiving Orders and Orders of Administration (under Section 130 of the Bankruptcy Act 1914) made in England and Wales and of Sequestration Orders made in Scotland for the relevant periods:

	Receiving Orders and Orders of Administration	Sequestration Orders
1970	4,907	112
1971	4,643	108
1972	4,244	116
1973	3,817	96
1974	5,608	104
1975 (provisional)	7,166	145

'The partnerships (firms) included in those figures are not readily distinguishable and I shall reply further to the Hon. Member as soon as possible,' said Mr. Clinton Davis.

Trade with Brazil

Mr. Stanley Newens (Harlow) asked for a list of the main increases in which it is hoped to expand trade with Brazil.

Mr. Deakins replied: 'Despite the economic measures introduced by Brazil in December 1975 to restrain and substitute imports, it is hoped that the intensification of our efforts both here and in Brazil, following the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding last October, will result in increased participation by the UK in Brazil's development projects in such sectors as railways, steel, electrical power, shipbuilding and the development of ports and natural resources.'

Textile imports

Mr. Mike Noble (Rossendale) asked for forecasts for the British manufacturers' share of the UK and European textile markets in 1977 as a result of the agreements concluded under the Multi-Fibre Arrangement and the Burden sharing agreement.

Mr. Deakins gave the following information:

'Market shares will be determined by many factors, including the level of demand, as well as by the MFA agreements and the burden-sharing formula. I am not, therefore, prepared to hazard forecasts for 1977 but the MFA agreements should help our manufacturers to maintain their market share, particularly in the UK.'

Mr. Noble asked what proportion of each category of textile imports into the EEC from Hong Kong will be taken by the UK in 1976 and 1977; and what were the proportions in 1974.

Mr. Deakins gave the following table which shows the UK share as a percentage of Community imports by quota group in 1974, and as a percentage of Community quotas in 1976 and 1977:

	1974	1976	1977
1 Woven cotton cloth (other than gauze, terry towelling and similar terry fabrics, narrow fabrics of a width not exceeding 30cm, pile fabrics and chenille fabrics, tulle and other net fabrics) and woven synthetic man-made fibre cloth (discontinuous): unbleached or bleached	85.0	68.9	64.6
2 As Category 1: other than unbleached or bleached	70.2	77.3	72.6
3 Undergarments, knitted or crocheted, not elastic or rubberised: Shorts, T-shirts, undervests, singlets and the like	na	48.5	47.5
4 Outer garments and other articles, knitted or crocheted, not elastic or rubberised: Jerseys, pull-overs, slip-overs, twinsets, cardigans, bed-jackets and jumpers	50.0	54.4	53.4
5 Outer garments and other articles, knitted or crocheted, not elastic or rubberised: Infants garments Bathing costumes and trunks Dresses and frocks Skirts Combination sets	60.6	57.0	55.4
6 Men's, boys', women's, girls' and infants' outer garments (other than knitted or crocheted): Raincoats of the overcoat type	na	21.4	21.8
7 Men's and boys' outer garments (other than knitted or crocheted): Suits Jackets, blazers and the like	29.3	23.6	25.1
8 Men's, boy's, women's, girls' and infants' outer garments (other than knitted or crocheted): Trousers, jeans, breeches and the like except divided skirts	37.2	48.7	47.7
9 Women's, girls' and infants' outer garments (other than knitted or crocheted): Coats and jackets	12.3	26.9	28.2
10 Women's, girls' and infants' outer garments (other than knitted or crocheted): Dresses Skirts, including divided skirts	38.5	36.3	35.3
11 Women's, girls' and infants' outer garments (other than knitted or crocheted): Shirts and blouses	23.2	23.6	23.8
12 Men's and boys' undergarments (other than knitted or crocheted): Shirts	38.8	43.5	42.6
13 Men's, boys', women's, girls' and infants' undergarments (other than knitted or crocheted) including collars, shirt fronts and cuffs: Pyjamas, nightdresses and other night garments	36.8	31.2	31.6
14 Bed linen, table linen, toilet linen and kitchen linen; curtains and other furnishing articles: Bed linen Table linen Toilet linen and kitchen linen	82.0	70.3	66.0

Note: The table is based on data compiled by the EEC commission. No allowance has been made for reductions to some quotas in 1976 agreed in consultations on Hong Kong's actual quota useage in 1975. No allowance has been made for the flexible use of quotas. Data not available is marked 'na'.

Mr. Noble asked what would be the rate of growth of textile imports from Hong Kong, by category, for each member state of the EEC, in 1975, 1976 and 1977 as a result of the recently concluded agreement on trade in textiles between the EEC and Hong Kong.

Mr. Deakins gave the following information in percentages:

Textile imports from Hong Kong

	1975							
	Germany	France	Italy	Benelux	UK	Ireland	Denmark	EEC
1 Woven cotton cloth (other than gauze, terry towelling and similar terry fabrics, narrow fabrics of a width not exceeding 30cm, pile fabrics and chenille fabrics, tulle and other net fabrics) and woven synthetic man-made fibre cloth (discontinuous); unbleached or bleached.	78.6	205.3	500.0	167.3	11.4	0.9	101.3	32.8
2 As Category 1; other than unbleached or bleached	159.7	56.9	200.0	51.0	0.2	-64.0	29.0	5.4
3 Undergarments, knitted or crocheted, not elastic or rubberised: Shirts, T-shirts undervests, singlets and the like	Not available							
4 Outer garments and other articles, knitted or crocheted, not elastic or rubberised: Jerseys, pull-overs, slip-overs twinsets, cardigans, bed-jackets and jumpers	-26.6	165.3	-5.4	-22.4	-6.2	360.0	-26.3	-15.6
5 Outer garments and other articles, knitted or crocheted not elastic or rubberised: Infant's garments; Bathing costumes and trunks; Dresses and frocks; Skirts; Combination sets	6.7	312.5	-68.6	7.3	1.2	*	10.9	2.4
6 Men's, boys', women's, girls' and infants' outer garments (other than knitted or crocheted): Raincoats of the overcoat type	Not available							
7 Men's and boys' outer garments (other than knitted or crocheted): Suits; Jackets, blazers and the like	78.6	-11.3	129.1	73.1	19.7	*	25.8	57.1
8 Men's, boys', women's, girls' and infants' outer garments (other than knitted or crocheted): Trousers, jeans, breeches and the like; except divided skirts	-11.1	31.7	-14.6	-31.8	-4.1	*	-13.2	-8.9
9 Women's, girls' and infants' outer garments (other than knitted or crocheted): Coats and jackets	5.6	5,100.0	90.9	590.0	174.2	*	15.6	34.0
10 Women's, girls' and infants' outer garments (other than knitted or crocheted): Dresses; Skirts, including divided skirts	11.8	4,433.3	49.7	21.3	10.6	*	22.7	14.3
11 Women's, girls' and infants' outer garments (other than knitted or crocheted): Shirts and blouses	0.5	700.0	50.0	6.1	2.6	*	6.0	2.0
12 Men's and boys' undergarments (other than knitted or crocheted): Shirts	28.1	668.2	28.4	6.5	0	*	48.0	8.0
13 Men's, boys', women's, girls' and infants' undergarments (other than knitted or crocheted) including collars, shirt fronts and cuffs: Pyjamas, nightdresses and other night garments	Not available							
14 Bed linen, table linen, toilet linen and kitchen linen; curtains and other furnishing articles: Bed linen; Table linen; Toilet linen and kitchen linen	406.3	150.0	11.1	1,122.6	113.8	*	6.5	134.4

Textile imports from Hong Kong

1976								1977							
Germany	France	Italy	Benelux	UK	Ireland	Denmark	EEC	Germany	France	Italy	Benelux	UK	Ireland	Denmark	EEC
29.7	50.0	22.1	20.9	0.5	0.4	45.9	7.0	24.3	50.0	19.4	15.4	0.5	2.0	24.5	7.0
44.7	44.5	50.0	27.0	0.5	3.3	28.8	7.0	29.4	29.1	50.2	26.8	0.5	3.2	29.1	7.0
1.8	240.0	39.4	7.6	0.5	10.2	2.8	2.5	1.8	46.6	38.9	7.9	0.5	10.3	3.1	2.5
2.1	130.8	33.2	7.2	0.5	34.8	3.1	2.5	2.3	38.0	31.3	7.2	0.5	32.3	3.1	2.5
14.3	51.5	51.9	9.7	1.6	50.0	23.0	7.1	8.8	50.0	51.2	6.2	4.0	66.7	13.3	7.1
0.8	66.7	7.7	0.6	4.2	0	7.0	2.5	1.1	36.0	7.2	0.6	4.0	100.0	4.9	2.5
0.5	434.0	50.2	14.1	14.6	180.0	0.5	8.5	0.5	49.8	50.1	13.2	15.5	50.0	0.5	8.5
1.6	165.2	37.7	10.7	0.5	125.0	1.5	2.5	1.8	46.2	33.7	10.2	0.5	44.4	1.5	2.5
0.5	50.0	50.0	47.8	16.3	66.7	25.2	8.5	0.5	50.0	50.8	36.0	14.0	60.0	18.0	8.5
4.6	50.0	50.0	23.8	5.8	57.1	30.4	8.5	4.3	50.0	50.2	18.7	5.3	54.6	27.9	8.5
0.5	155.7	15.1	7.9	3.5	140.0	7.9	2.5	0.5	42.7	42.6	7.6	3.4	41.7	7.6	2.5
1.2	247.9	31.9	9.1	0.5	255.6	2.4	2.5	1.4	44.6	32.4	9.5	0.5	43.8	2.6	2.5
0.5	225.3	1,116.7	31.6	7.5	275.0	30.1	8.5	0.5	50.0	49.8	34.5	10.0	46.7	33.1	8.5
16.9	640.0	50.0	32.5	0.5	33.3	16.2	7.0	16.9	49.6	49.5	30.1	0.5	50.0	20.9	7.0

Note: This table is based on data compiled by the European commission. Percentages in the columns for 1976 and 1977 represent in all cases changes from the previous years quota levels. Percentages in the column for 1975 represent, in the case of the UK, changes from 1974 quota levels (where there was a quota in 1974) or from actual trade in 1974 (where trade in 1974 was unrestricted). In the case of the other EEC member states, percentages in the column for 1975 represent changes from actual levels of trade in 1974. Items marked with an asterisk in the column for Ireland in 1975 cannot be calculated because no imports into Ireland were recorded in 1974. No allowance has been made for reductions in 1976 growth rates (and corresponding increases in 1977) arising from reductions in the 1976 quotas for certain categories agreed in consultations on Hong Kong's quota usage in 1975. No allowance has been made for flexibility in the use of quotas.

Tuesday, 3 February

Russian and other merchant shipping rates

Mr. John Spence (Thirsk and Malton) referred to: 'the scale of the cuts in Russian, Eastern Bloc countries' and others' merchant shipping rates', and asked if the Secretary of State for Trade would set up an inquiry to examine methods of assisting the British merchant shipping industry to be in a competitive position.

Mr. Clinton Davis said: 'We are pursuing this matter with interested parties both in the United Kingdom and in international circles. I believe that this is the best way of approaching this problem.'

Small Firms Information Service

Mr. Michael Shersby (Hillingdon, Uxbridge) asked for the total number of inquiries per month received by each of the 10 Small Firms Information Service centres since their conception; the number of staff presently employed at each centre; and the total cost to public funds of running this service.

Mr. MacKenzie replied: 'From the opening of the first of the 10 Centres in July 1973 until the commencement of a national advertising campaign in March 1975, the average number of inquiries received by each centre per month was 295. During the period March 1975 to December 1975 the average inquiry rate per centre per month has risen to 580.

'Three staff are employed at each Centre except in London where four are employed. The total cost of the Service to public funds to the end of 1975/76 financial year will have been £1,224,000 of which capital costs were £222,000.'

Company investigations

Mr. John Stonehouse (Walsall North) asked for a list of companies investigated under Sections 165 (b) and 172 of the Companies Act 1948 about which reports were issued during 1975.

Mr. Shore told him that inspectors' reports were published during 1975 on the under mentioned companies:

Court Line Ltd.
John Willment Automobiles Ltd.
Bernard Russell Ltd.
Blanes Ltd. (now named Black Arrow Group Ltd.)
Australian Estates Ltd.
First Re-Investment Trust Ltd.
Nelson Financial Trust Ltd.
English and Scottish Unit Trust Holdings Ltd.

Mr. Stonehouse also asked what sections of the report or evidence obtained in connection with the investigation of London and County Securities Group Ltd. were released to Scotland Yard; and whether the permission of the individuals concerned was obtained.

Mr. Shore said: 'The inspectors submitted information in pursuance of Section 41 of the Companies Act 1967 in September 1974 and their final report on 7 March 1975. These were made available to the police together with a transcript of such evidence as was relevant to their inquiries. Information obtained as a result of inquiries under the Companies Acts 1948 and 1967 is only provided in accordance with the provisions of those Acts.'

Building grants

Sir Paul Bryan (Howden) inquired about the sums received in building grants under the Local Employment Act 1972 by Scotland and the Yorkshire and Humberside Region, respectively.

Mr. MacKenzie replied: 'The value of building grants under the Local Employment Acts 1960-72 offered to companies in Scotland and in the Yorkshire and Humberside Region is £82.9 million and £9.5 million, respectively. For the greater part of the period during which applications could be made much of the Yorkshire and Humberside Region was neither a development area nor an intermediate area and therefore was not eligible for building grants.'

UNCTAD IV

Questions about Government policy towards the proposals coming before UNCTAD IV were asked by Mr. Frank Hooley (Sheffield, Heeley) and Mr. Nigel Spearing (Newham South). Mr. Hooley asked about the proposal which will come before UNCTAD IV for an integrated programme for commodities.

Mr. Deakins answered that the latest proposals put forward by the UNCTAD Secretariat for an integrated programme for commodities have a number of points in common with the proposals put forward by the Prime Minister at Kingston last May. The forthcoming UNCTAD Conference would provide an opportunity to build on the existing common ground.

To questions about the proposal for a common fund Mr. Deakins said that the Government had not taken a final position on the concept. Further progress would be needed in considering which commodities are suitable for buffer stock arrangements and to what extent consumers are prepared to participate directly in the financing of such stocks.

Mr. Hooley then asked about proposals for some form of indexation or link between the prices of raw material exports by developing countries and their imports and manufactures.

Mr. Deakins told him: 'We agree that these proposals require careful study to determine how far they would work to the benefit of developing countries generally and what effects they would have in relation to our objective of promoting a better organisation of commodity trade.'

Mr. Hooley asked for the Government's policy on the proposal for setting up buffer stocks of 10 core commodities in order to ease fluctuations in price and supply.

Mr. Deakins said: 'International agreements incorporating buffer stocks already exist for cocoa and tin. There is also an International Coffee Agreement based on export quotas triggered by movements within an agreed price range. As for the remaining seven products on the list of "core" commodities selected by the UNCTAD Secretariat, we believe that each product needs to be examined to determine whether or not buffer stocks would be a suitable mechanism for achieving greater stability.'

Mr. Spearing asked by what means HM Government proposes to pursue the Prime Minister's Jamaica initiative on commodity trading; and what place in any initiatives he envisages for UNCTAD and the Conference on International Co-operation, respectively.

Mr. Deakins replied: 'We are in the process of agreeing with other member states in the European Community a common line for the discussions in both the UNCTAD Conference and the CIEC. We believe that these Conferences will provide good opportunities to further the objectives enunciated in May 1975 at the Jamaica meeting of Commonwealth Heads of Government by my Rt. Hon. Friend the Prime Minister.'

Mr. Spearing asked the reasons for favouring a policy of case by case approach to commodity regulations with third world nations.

Mr. Deakins answered: 'Each individual commodity has a different production cycle, a different elasticity of demand, different storage problems and specific characteristics which have to be taken into account in any attempt to deal with the problem of price fluctuations. Nonetheless, as my Rt. Hon. Friend the Prime Minister indicated at the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Jamaica in May 1975, it is possible to envisage a framework of internationally-agreed commitments within the context of a General Agreement on Commodities.'

Mr. Spearing also asked about the leadership and composition of the UK delegations to the UNCTAD Conference in Nairobi next May and the Trade and Development Board in Geneva in May.

Mr. Deakins said: 'The United Kingdom Delegation to the meeting of the Trade and Development Board in Geneva in March will be led by a senior official of the Department of Trade supported by officials of other Departments concerned. The Delegation to the UNCTAD Conference in Nairobi will also be led at official level by the Department of Trade supported by a strong team of officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and other Departments concerned. My Rt. Hon. Friend the Secretary of State will be attending the opening stages of the Conference himself and other Ministers may also be present during the Conference depending upon the way in which it develops.'

New Zealand imports scheme

Lord Pannell drew the attention of HM Government to the scheme proposed by the New Zealand Government, whereby one-third of the value of selected imports is deposited with the Reserve Bank for six months without interest.

Lord Winterbottom answered: 'Yes, I understand the scheme came into operation yesterday, 2 February.'

Unit trusts: management changes

Lord Champion asked what steps are being taken to safeguard the interests of unit trust holders when unit trusts are subject to take-overs and their managements change hands.

Lord Winterbottom replied that no unit trust scheme may be promoted to the public unless it has been authorised by the Department of Trade under Section 17 of the Prevention of Fraud (Investments) Act 1958.

When any change of management of a trust is proposed, the Department must satisfy itself, in consultation with the Trustee, that the reputation of the prospective managers is sufficiently high to warrant continued authorisation if the transfer takes place. In reaching this decision, the Department pays due regard to the interests of the unit holders concerned.'

Wastepaper disposal

Lord Shinwell asked: 'What progress has been achieved with the collection, recycling and disposal of wastepaper?'

Lord Melchett answered that the paper and board industry recycled about 1.7 million tonnes of wastepaper in 1975. That was about 20 per cent less than in 1974. The reduction was caused by a fall in demand for the industry's products, in turn due to the economic recession. 'In the longer term, however, the industry foresees an increase in the amount of wastepaper it will be able to recycle,' he added.

Wednesday, 4 February

Waste re-cycling

Mr. Michael McNair-Wilson (Newbury) asked for a statement about the progress of the Government's policy to encourage the re-cycling of waste, used and surplus material.

Mr. Carmichael answered: 'The Waste Management Advisory Council, established by the Government, has been identifying priorities for action and is engaged on studies covering the whole field of waste management. The Council's recently published First Report makes a number of wide-ranging recommendations, which the Government is considering carefully. A further, important initiative has been the appointment of Dr. Robert Berry as the first Director of the National Anti-Waste Programme.'

Company finance – liquidity ratios

Information was requested by Mr. Robert Kilroy-Silk (Ormskirk) on the level, respectively, of cash and government securities and of current liabilities held by manufacturing firms for each year since 1945: and their liquidity ratio for each of these years.

'The information requested is not available for all manufacturing businesses,' said Mr. Clinton Davis. 'Certain information is available from 1948 onwards for the large manufacturing companies listed on the Stock Exchange covered by the Department of Industry's regular analysis of company accounts which is published in Business Monitor M3. This is given in the table below. The ratio of cash and government securities to current liabilities is available only from 1964 and may be too low because government securities are not necessarily identified in company accounts. A rather wider definition of the liquidity ratio – immediate assets and investments to current liabilities – is, however, available from 1948 and is given also in the table.'

Birmingham Airport

Mrs. Jill Knight (Birmingham, Edgbaston) inquired about the future of Birmingham Airport.

Mr. Clinton Davis said: 'The Government's policy towards Birmingham airport will be determined in the light of consultations with local authorities and others which will follow publication of the consultation document on regional airports.'

Perambulators and pushchairs

Mr. Ioan Evans (Aberdare) asked when the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection intends to make regulations for perambulators and push chairs based on British Standard 4139: 1967 and 4792: 1972.

Mr. Williams reply is published on page 420.

Industrial development

Mr. Gordon Wilson (Dundee East) asked for an estimate of the number of firms who established operations in Scotland as a result of refusal of industrial development certificates in each year from 1970 to 1975; and the number of instances in which such operations in Scotland arising from industrial development certificate refusals between 1970 and 1973 have subsequently been discontinued.

'Information of this kind is not collected on a regular basis,' said Mr. MacKenzie 'However, information available about manufacturing establishments which opened in Scotland between 1966 and 1972, and still in existence at the end of 1972, shows that out of 172 establishments with attributable non-Scottish origins, 123 had links with England.'

LARGE LISTED MANUFACTURING COMPANIES

	Number of companies	Cash, etc and identified government securities (a) (1)	Other listed and unlisted investments (2)	Trade and other debtors (3)	Total immediate assets and investments (b) (4)	Current liabilities (c) (5)	Liquidity ratio (4) + (5)	Liquidity ratio (1) + (5)
		£ million	£ million	£ million	£ million	£ million	per cent	per cent
1948	2,006		1,038	985	2,022	1,573	128.5	
1949	2,006		1,065	1,066	2,130	1,628	130.8	
1950	2,099		1,174	1,222	2,396	1,788	134.0	
1951	2,143		1,147	1,445	2,592	2,220	116.8	
1952	2,129		1,189	1,501	2,690	2,172	123.8	
1953	2,106		1,344	1,582	2,926	2,201	132.9	
1954	2,113		1,423	1,730	3,152	2,329	135.3	
1955	2,133		1,446	1,985	3,431	2,604	131.8	
1956	2,152		1,310	2,117	3,427	2,863	119.7	
1957	2,104		1,346	2,276	3,622	3,056	118.5	
1958	2,065		1,415	2,265	3,681	2,989	123.1	
1959	1,991		1,700	2,570	4,270	3,224	132.4	
1960(d)	1,912		1,664	2,882	4,546	3,767	120.7	
1960 (d)	1,688		1,663	2,797	4,460	3,613	123.4	
1961	1,632		1,660	2,993	4,653	3,953	117.7	
1962	1,577		1,694	3,129	4,824	4,080	118.2	
1963	1,502		1,842	3,473	5,315	4,463	119.1	
1964 (d)	1,437		1,756	3,977	5,734	4,974	115.3	
1964 (d)	1,683	860	928	4,043	5,831	5,079	114.8	16.9
1965	1,569	751	939	4,485	6,174	5,645	109.4	13.3
1966	1,508	755	1,007	4,912	6,674	6,206	107.6	12.2
1967	1,421	897	1,182	5,235	7,314	6,387	114.5	14.0
1968	1,310	977	1,346	5,905	8,228	7,789	105.6	12.5
1969 (d)	1,218	990	1,297	6,685	8,972	9,381	95.6	10.6
1969 (d)	910	939	1,322	6,199	8,461	8,702	97.2	10.8
1970	874	908	1,376	6,759	9,043	9,833	92.0	9.2
1971	834	1,179	1,613	6,538	9,329	9,793	95.3	12.0
1972	786	1,808	1,879	7,276	10,963	10,821	101.3	16.7
1973	762	2,319	2,237	9,053	13,608	14,262	95.4	16.3
1973 (e)	609	1,767	1,808	7,379	10,954	11,266	97.2	15.7
1974 (provisional) (e)	600	1,478	1,725	8,466	11,669	13,869	84.1	10.7

(a) Cash, etc: government securities, tax reserve certificates (tax deposit accounts from 1973) and Treasury Bills, where separately distinguished in company accounts. Prior to 1964 holdings of government securities were not separately distinguished.

(b) Current assets less stocks and work-in-progress.

(c) Bank overdrafts and loans, other short-term loans, creditors, dividends and interest due and current taxation due. From 1968 onwards all corporation tax is classed as a current liability irrespective of the date on which it is paid. Prior to 1968 only corporation tax and income tax payable in the current fiscal year is treated as a current liability.

(d) The population of companies covered by the analysis was revised in 1960, 1964 and 1969 and so two sets of figures are given for these years.

(e) 1974 figures are provisional being based only on accounts received up to 30 September 1975; figures for 1973 comparable with these are therefore also given.

Source: Department of Industry analysis of the accounts of large listed manufacturing companies operating mainly in the United Kingdom.

Parliament continued

Mr. Wilson also asked for the number of industrial development certificates applied for in the non-development areas of the UK in each year from 1970 to 1975, indicating the respective numbers of industrial development certificates granted and refused.

Mr. MacKenzie gave the following table covering schemes of all sizes in all parts of the UK outside the Development Areas and Special Development Areas and Northern Ireland.

	Industrial development certificates	
	Issued no.	Refused no.
1970	4,954	194
1971	2,482	112
1972	2,342	53
1973	2,275	88
1974	1,837	65
1975 Jan./Nov.	1,660	28

Note: From 1 September 1974, the IDC control ceased to apply to parts of Scotland and Wales which had been newly designated as Development Areas. The IDC exemption limits were raised in December 1970 and July 1972 and lowered in September 1974.

Mr. Tom Litterick (Birmingham, Selly Oak) asked for figures showing the number of industrial development certificates granted and requests refused in the West Midlands region during each of the last five complete years.

Mr. MacKenzie gave the following table relating to schemes of all sizes:

	Industrial Development Certificates	
	Issued no.	Refused no.
1971	468	29
1972	374	11
1973	258	12
1974	202	11
1975	277	7

Note: IDC exemption limits were raised in July 1972, and lowered in September 1974.

Mr. John Pardoe (North Cornwall) asked for details for each year since 1966-67 of the number of advance factories, their floor space, and the number of factories and their floor space per 1,000 insured employees in each development area.

Mr. MacKenzie gave the information as follows:

Planning agreement

Mr. Geoff Edge (Aldridge, Brownhills) asked which companies or organisations have been asked to conclude planning agreements.

Mr. Kaufman answered: 'The Department has been pursuing its consultations with both sides of industry, including the CBI, the ABCC and the TUC, about the arrangements for Planning Agreements. In addition it is conducting exploratory discussions with a number of companies but these have not reached a stage at which we are in a position to make a statement.'

Safety at sea

Sir Bernard Braine (South East Essex) asked if the Department of Trade had had any discussions with the Port of London Authority concerning safety lessons to be drawn from the collision of the coaster Towe Princess *with the liquid natural gas tanker* Methane Princess *at Canvey Island on 6 December 1974; what action has since been taken; and whether the department were also consulted about the recent testing of the world's largest LNG tankers such as the* Paul Kayse *and the* Hille *at Canvey Island and the advisability of testing such vessels there in the future.*

Mr. Clinton Davis replied: 'Discussions were held between officials of my Department and the Port of London Authority following the collision and the PLA has since introduced new statutory directions concerning safe navigation in the area.

'I assume that the tests referred to are the "cooling-down" trials carried out on new ships when they embark their first cargo of liquid gas. The safety aspect of such loading operations at Canvey Island is primarily a matter for the Secretary of State for Employment.'

Consumer safety

Mr. Gwilym Roberts (Cannock) asked for a statement on proposals for reviewing consumer safety legislation; and the steps to be taken to ensure that all those interested have an adequate opportunity to express their views.

Mr. Williams replied: 'A consultative document on consumer safety which discusses possible ways of strengthening and improving the present law and administrative arrangements will be published as a Green Paper on 17 February. I hope the document will encourage wide-ranging public discussion and that those interested will submit their views to my Department. Arrangements are being made in co-operation with the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents for the second day of their annual conference on 3 and 4 March to be devoted to group and general discussions on issues raised in the Green Paper. I have accepted an invitation to attend the conference and to chair the final discussion session.'

Shipbuilding industries

Mr. Neville Trotter (Tynemouth) asked in what way the ships under construction at Govan Shipbuilders in 1975 were more sophisticated than those under construction (a) in 1974 and (b) in 1973.

'The company inform me that in 1975 the vessels completed included two sophisticated fast refrigerated cargo liners,' said Mr. Kaufman. 'Vessels completed in 1973 and 1974 were all bulk carriers or general cargo ships of straightforward construction and standard specification and design.'

Mr. Trotter asked if the Secretary of State for Industry is satisfied with the level of orders at the shipbuilding and repair yards that are State controlled.

'The present shortage of orders is a matter of concern for the whole industry, whether publicly or privately owned,' said Mr. Kaufman.

Mr. Trotter asked how often the Secretary of State for Industry received regular reports and trading figures during 1975 from the management of Cammel Lairds, Govan Shipbuilders and Sunderland Shipbuilders; and, in the case of the trading figures, what delay normally occurred in their submission after the period to which they related.

Mr. Kaufman answered: 'All these companies in 1975 submitted regular monthly reports on certain aspects of their business. Sunderland Shipbuilders Ltd. and Cammell Laird Shipbuilders Ltd. submitted trading figures quarterly and Govan Shipbuilders Ltd. monthly. These trading figures were normally received within six to ten weeks of the end of the period to which they related.'

Mr. Trotter then asked what steps the Government has taken to secure work for the shipbuilding and repair yards already in State ownership; and what further steps are proposed in the months before the yards pass to the new British Shipbuilding Corporation.

'Securing work is a matter for the management of the companies concerned,' said Mr. Kaufman.

Mr. Trotter asked: '*What capital investment has there been at Greenwell's repair yard in Sunderland since it came into public ownership?*'

'Since September 1974 capital investment at Greenwell Drydocks Ltd. has amounted to £86,000', said Mr. Kaufman.

	Northern development area				Merseyside development area				South West development area			
	Advance factories	Floor space	Per 1,000 insured employees		Advance factories	Floor space	Per 1,000 insured employees		Advance factories	Floor space	Per 1,000 insured employees	
March 1959 to:	(no.)	(sq ft)	No.	sq ft	(no.)	(sq ft)	No.	sq ft	(no.)	(sq ft)	No.	sq ft
1.4.66	17	1,012,000	0.012	735	1	42,000	0.001	51	—	—	—	—
1.4.67	27	1,456,000	0.020	1,064	2	69,000	0.002	85	5	101,000	0.037	748
1.4.68	38	2,185,000	0.028	1,615	3	96,000	0.004	118	5	101,000	0.037	748
1.4.69	46	2,426,000	0.034	1,788	6	211,000	0.007	262	7	162,000	0.051	1,191
1.4.70	60	2,773,000	0.044	2,024	9	279,000	0.011	353	8	168,000	0.058	1,226
1.4.71	72	3,000,000	0.054	2,239	12	336,000	0.016	443	9	189,000	0.063	1,322
1.4.72	85	3,225,000	0.063	2,392	13	362,000	0.017	478	12	217,000	0.082	1,476
1.4.73	88	3,291,000	0.064	2,395	13	362,000	0.017	479	13	223,000	0.084	1,448
1.4.74	91	3,335,000	—	—	13	362,000	—	—	13	223,000	—	—
1.4.75	102	3,479,000	—	—	13	362,000	—	—	15	243,000	—	—
31.12.75	113	3,656,000	—	—	16	393,000	—	—	15	243,000	—	—

Notes:
1 Information is not readily available prior to March 1959.
2 Many of these factories have been extended and the above figures are based on their present floor areas.
3 Employment figures are not yet available for the years 1973/74, 1974/75, 1975/76.
4 The figures include advance factories sold, freehold and leasehold.

Concorde sub-contractors

Mr. Dafydd Thomas (Merioneth) asked for a list of the sub-contractors engaged in work relating to the Concorde.

Mr. Kaufman supplied the following list of the more important subcontractors engaged in work on the Concorde airframe and engine.

SOME MAJOR CONCORDE AIRFRAME SUB-CONTRACTORS

(Excluding minor contractors and suppliers of materials)

Firm	Location
Aerolex	Camberley, Surrey
Airsearch Co. (see Garrett Corporation, USA)	
Aircraft Marine Products	Stanmore, Middlesex
Airscrew Fans	Weybridge, Surrey
Allform Tools	Sheffield, Yorkshire
Ampep Industrial Products	Clevedon, Somerset
Ateliers Semena	Toulouse, France
Auto Diesels Braby	Uxbridge, Middlesex
Aviation Tool Corporation	Hounslow, Middlesex
Avico Equipment	Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire
Brensal Electronics	Bristol, Avon
Cromzet	Valence, France
D.B.A. Air Equipement	Asnieres-Sur-Seine, France
Delaney Gallay	Biggleswade, Bedfordshire
Doncasters (Blaenavon)	Blaenavon, Monmouthshire
Dowty Electrics	Gloucester, Gloucestershire
Dowty Rotol	Gloucester, Gloucestershire
Dowty Seals	Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire
Du Kane Corporation	St. Charles, Illinois, USA
Dunlop (Precision Rubbers Division)	Loughborough, Leicestershire
Egerton Tool and Instrument Co.	Edgware, Middlesex
Elecma	Suresnes, France
Electronic Associates	Burgess Hill, Surrey
Faure, Herman	Boulogne, France
Flight Refuelling	Wimborne, Dorset
Flying Service (Engineering and Equipment)	Chesham, Buckinghamshire
Fothergill and Harvey	Littleborough, Lancashire
Garrett Corporation	Los Angeles, California, USA
Gloster Engineering (Cheltenham)	Cheltenham, Gloucestershire
Goliath Engineering Co.	Sunbury-on-Thames, Middlesex
Graviner	Colnbrook, Buckinghamshire
Grundy and Partners	Stonehouse, Gloucestershire
Hartwell Corporation	Los Angeles, California, USA
Hellermann Deutsch	East Grinstead, Sussex
Hercules Engineering Co.	Isleworth, Middlesex
Hewlett Packard	Slough, Buckinghamshire
High Temperature Engineers	Fareham, Hampshire
E. Hillier and Son (Engineering)	Reading, Berkshire
Instrument Research Laboratories	Corsham, Wiltshire
Intertechnique	Plaisir, France
Jaegar	Lavallois – Peppet, France
Kenure Developments	Camberley, Surrey
Walter Kidde Co.	Greenford, Middlesex
Lever (Tolworth) Co.	Wimbledon, SW19
Lucas Aerospace	Bradford, Yorks
Lucas Aerospace	Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire
Marshall of Cambridge Engineering)	Cambridge, Cambridgeshire
Meter Flow	Feltham, Middlesex
Midcast Numerical Control	Glen Parva, Leicestershire
Midcast Numerical Control (Wales)	Maesteg, Glamorgan
M. L. Aviation Co.	Maidenhead, Berkshire
Moores (Wallisdown)	Bournemouth, Hampshire
Morfax	Mitcham, Surrey
Normalair Garrett	Yeovil, Somerset
Page Engineering Co.	Sunbury, Middlesex
Parker, Hannifin Corporation	Los Angeles, California, USA
Planer Products	Sunbury-on-Thames, Middlesex
Plessey Co.	Titchfield, Hampshire
Plessey Diac	Croydon, Surrey
Pyrotector	Hingham, Massachusetts, USA
RFD-GQ	Godalming, Surrey
Rosemount Engineering Co.	Bognor Regis, Sussex
S.A.R.M.A.	St. Vallier-Sur-Rhone,
Sculpture Machining	Bedfont, Middlesex
S.E. Laboratories (Engineering)	Feltham, Middlesex
Servicon Dynamics	Cheltenham, Gloucestershire
Societe de Carburateur Zenith	Lavallois – Perret, France
Societe Industrielle D'Aviation Latécoere	Toulouse, France
Sintron Electronics	Reading, Berkshire
Smith Clayton Forge	Lincoln, Lincolnshire
Smiths Industries	Cheltenham, Gloucestershire
Statham Instruments	Oxnard, California, USA
Stresskin Products Co.	Santa Ana, California, USA
Systron Donner	Leamington Spa, Warwickshire
Superflexit	Courbevoie, France
C. F. Taylor (Metal Workers)	Wokingham, Berkshire
Teddington Aircraft Controls	Yeovil, Somerset
Teleflex-Syneravia	Ivry-Sur-Seine, France
Thermal Controls	Hove, Sussex
Triplex	Esconne, France
Triplex Safety Class Co.	Birmingham, Warwickshire
United Moulders	Fernburst, Surrey
Uni-Tubes	Slough, Buckinghamshire
Vickers Medical Engineering	Swindon, Wiltshire
Waddon Engineering	Croydon, Surrey

SOME MAJOR CONCORDE ENGINE SUB-CONTRACTORS

(Exluding minor contractors and suppliers of materials)

Firm	Location
Abbey Panels	Coventry, Warwickshire
ABG SEMCA	Toulouse, France
Bristol Aerojet	Banwell, Weston-Super-Mare, Somerset
British Aircraft Corporation	Filton, Avon
British Filters	Marlow, Buckinghamshire
Byfleet Machine Tools	Weybridge, Surrey
Cameron	Bristol, Avon
Champion Sparking Plug Co.	Feltham, Middlesex
Delaney Gallay	Cricklewood, N.W.2
Doncasters Monk Bridge	Leeds, Yorkshire
Dunlop Aviation Group	Coventry, Warwickshire
Elecma	Paris, France
Flight Refuelling	Wimborne, Dorsetshire
Hepworth and Grandage	Leeds, Yorkshire
Herman Smith	Luton, Bedfordshire
Hillier and Son (Engineering)	Reading, Berkshire
Hymatic Engineering	Redditch, Worcestershire
Kollsman Instruments	Southampton, Hampshire
Lucas Aerospace	Birmingham, Warwickshire
Moores (Wallisdown)	Bournemouth, Hampshire
Morfax	Mitcham, Surrey
Normalair Garrett	Yeovil, Somerset
Palmer Aero Products	Edgware Road, N.W.8.
Rotax (now Lucas Aerospace)	Bradford, Yorkshire
Sangamo Western Controls	Enfield, Middlesex
Serck Heat Transfer	Birmingham, Warwickshire
Smith (Harlow)	Harlow, Essex
Smiths Industries	Basingstoke, Hampshire
Smiths Industries	Putney Vale, S.W.15
Ultra Electronics	Acton, London, W.3
Union Carbide UK	Glossop, Derbyshire
Universal Fisher Engineering	Crawley, Sussex
Vactric Control Equipment	Morden, Surrey
Vibrometer Aviation Division	Stockport, Cheshire

Research on aircraft noise

Mr. Robert Adley (Christchurch and Lymington) asked: 'What is the current level of Government funding to Rolls-Royce for research and development of aero-engine noise suppression techniques?'

'Payments by HMG to Rolls Royce (1971) Ltd. during 1975/6 on programmes of general research on aero-engine noise and on programmes demonstrating practical aero-engine noise reduction technology are expected to total about £1.2 million,' said Mr. Kaufman.

Ferrous Foundry Scheme

Mr. John Moore (Croydon Central) wanted to know the criteria established for the Ferrous Foundry Scheme; and the members of the External Advisory Committee set up to advise the Department of Industry on the scheme.

Mr. MacKenzie said that detailed information about the scheme was contained in the Notes for the Guidance of Applicants (form FIS 2) issued by the Department in October 1975; copies are available from regional offices of the Department of Industry, the Industrial Development Division of the Scottish Economic Planning Department, the Industrial Department of the Welsh Office, and the Northern Ireland Department of Commerce.

The membership of the Advisory Committee was announced on 16 December 1975 (*Trade and Industry*, 19 December 1975 page 755).

Post Office banking offices

Mr. Trotter asked by whom the studies into the demand for wider banking facilities commissioned by the Post Office were carried out; and what was the cost.

'Research into the wider markets for National Giro services has been undertaken by leading consultants', said Mr. MacKenzie. 'These consultants were not commissioned by the Government and it is a matter for the Post Office to provide information on the authorship and costs of the studies undertaken on its behalf.'

Post Office telecommunications equipment

Mr. John Golding (Newcastle under Lyme) asked how many Post Office orders for telecommunications equipment have not been delivered on time; and what is the average length of delay.

Mr. MacKenzie said: 'The Post Office tell me that, at December 1975, about 500 of their current contracts for exchange equipment were in delay for reasons attributable to their contractors, and the average delay on such contracts was about six months.'

Installation of telephones etc.

Mr. Michael O'Halloran (Islington North) asked for a statement regarding the length of time applicants have to wait for the installation of telephones and recording machines.

Mr. MacKenzie said: 'The Post Office tell me that 95 per cent of all applications for telephone service can be met on demand, but that the length of time for the remaining 5 per cent depends on the particular local factors applying to the case and it is difficult to give a meaningful figure. A surge in demand has caused delays in the supply of answering machines, but the Post Office say that there should be an improvement in the supply position shortly.'

Thursday, 5 February

London and County Securities

Mr. Hugh Dykes (Harrow East) asked what action was proposed following the report of inspectors into the collapse of London and County Securities.

Mr. Clinton Davis said: 'I am advised that the police inquiries are nearing completion and that the Director of Public Prosecutions will be considering their report. If there are civil claims to be pursued, these fall to be dealt with by the respective liquidators of the companies concerned. So far as the supervision of secondary banks is concerned, preparations for the amendment of the Protection of Depositors (Accounts) Regulations 1963 are already in hand. In addition I am considering the implications of the report in conjunction with my on-going review of company law.'

Parliament continued

Committee of Inquiry on Industrial Democracy

Mr. Bryam Davies (Enfield North) asked what progress has been made by the Committee of Inquiry on Industrial Democracy.

Mr. Shore's reply is published on page 432.

Night jet movements at Heathrow

Mr. Barney Hayhoe (Hounslow, Brentford and Isleworth) asked for the total number of aircraft movements at night at Heathrow in 1975 for jets and for all other aircraft; and for a comparison with the figures for the last five years.

Mr. Clinton Davis gave the number of movements which took place during the night-time period of restrictions on jet movements as follows:

	Total movements by jet aircraft	Total movements by non-jet aircraft
1970	7,779	6,040
1971	7,801	5,827
1972	8,044	5,916
1973	5,998	6,324
1974	5,040	5,776
1975	4,272	4,025

Concorde flight-testing programme

Mr. Cyril Smith (Rochdale) asked for a statement about the possible closure by the British Aircraft Corporation of the premises and works at RAF Fairford, in connection with the Concorde flight-testing programme.

Mr. Kaufman said: 'The amount of flight testing required by the Concorde programme is expected to fall during 1976 to a level at which it will no longer be economical in management and public expenditure terms to maintain the Flight Test Centre at Fairford. The British Aircraft Corporation has therefore decided to close the centre in 1976. The date of closure will be settled between the company and my department who are responsible for the funding of the centre. The company are keeping employee representatives informed of developments.'

Financial assistance under Industry Acts

Mr. Eric Moonman (Basildon) asked how many requests were received between 1 March 1975 to 31 December 1975 from companies for financial assistance; how many were rejected; how many applications were pending; and how many were received from Scotland.

Mr. MacKenzie told him that 1,143 requests for financial assistance were received under Sections 7 and 8 of the Industry Act 1972 in the period mentioned. 96 applications were rejected and 607 were still under consideration on 31 December. 174 applications came from Scotland.

Mr. James Sillars (South Ayrshire) asked for an estimate of the cost of creating a new job in the development areas.

Mr. MacKenzie answered: 'The average cost of new jobs in the Development and Special Development Areas of Great Britain expected to be created by projects offered assistance under Section 7 of the Industry Act between 1 April 1976 and 30 November 1976 is estimated at £13,300, 43 per cent of which will be contributed from public sector funds (including regional development grants under part 1 of the Industry Act as well as selective assistance under Section 7 and assistance from other public sector sources).'

Mr. Anthony Grant (Harrow Central) wanted to know the criteria used for determining assisted area boundaries.

'The criteria are those prescribed in Section 1 of the Local Employment Act 1972, as amended, and in Section 1(4) of the Industry Act 1972,' said Mr. MacKenzie.

Mr. Michael Heseltine (Henley on Thames) asked for the dates on which payments were made or given guarantees for credit to Chrysler (UK) Ltd. under Section 8 of the Industry Act 1972; and on which date the next payment or increase is due.

Mr. Kaufman replied: 'The first payment of £12 million under the Agreement, to meet losses in 1976, was made on 6 January. The next payment of £6 million is due on 15 February. The dates of subsequent payments, to meet losses up to the total of £40 million, and the other information requested, are available from the documents I placed in the Library on 19 January in response to the question from the hon Member for Tonbridge and Malling (Mr. Stanley) (*Official Report* Vol 903, No 29, *Col 309*).'

Food prices

A table was requested by Mr. James Sillars (South Ayrshire) showing the current price of butter, cheese, milk, bread, household flour, lamb, beef, tea, sugar, margarine, jam, tinned pears and beer and indicating how this compares with each of the past three years and showing against each item, where appropriate, the amount of Government subsidy.

Mr. Maclennan said: 'Average retail prices in December, the latest month for which information is available are published in the January 1976 issue of the *Department of Employment Gazette*. The issues of February 1973, February 1974 and January 1975 give prices for the Decembers of earlier years. Comparable retail prices for jam, tinned pears and beer are not published.

'The value of subsidies, at the retail level, in December was as follows:'

Butter	9p (1) per pound
Cheese	12p (2) per pound
Tea	2p per quarter pound
Milk	2p per pint
Flour	3p per 3lb bag
Bread	2p per large loaf
	1p per small loaf

(1) In addition, a subsidy equivalent to 2p per pound is received from FEOGA (EEC).
(2) On 25 January 1976, the subsidy on cheese was cut by the equivalent of 2p per pound at the retail level.

Friday, 6 February

Small firms

'What has been the estimated change in the size of the small business sector since the Bolton Report was published?' asked Mr. David Mitchell (Basingstoke).

Mr. Kaufman replied: 'No reliable statistics are available on which to base an estimate of the change in the size of the small business sector since the publication of the Bolton Report. The most recent statistics on the retailing and manufacturing sectors which are derived from 1971 censuses suggest that there had been no decline in the numbers of small firms in these sectors as compared with the 1963 data used by the Committee of Enquiry on Small Firms.'

Consumer protection by local authorities

Mr. Norman Lamont (Kingston upon Thames) asked what was the total cost of consumer protection services provided by local government for the years 1974-75 and 1975-76.

Mr. Williams gave figures for local authority current expenditure on consumer protection in England and Wales as follows:

	£ million
1974/75 (At out-turn prices)	13.3
1975/76 (Estimated at November 1975 prices)	18.7

Mr. Lamont also asked how many local authorities have agreed to participate in the price comparison surveys; and the total expenditure to date.

'Agreement has been reached with 59 local authorities to run 196 price comparison schemes, and further approvals are expected shortly,' said Mr. Williams.

Mr. Lamont asked what was the total full-time and part-time staff and their full-time equivalents employed by local authorities in England and Wales in consumer advice bureaux and consumer protection services.

'There are no national figures of staff employed by local authorities on consumer protection services which enable a breakdown to be given along the lines requested,' said Mr. Williams. 'Figures that are available are not directly comparable since there are differences in the ranges of functions undertaken in the appropriate departments of individual local authorities. However, we understand that their estimate of total staff employed on these functions in England and Wales in the first half of 1975 was around 3,400.'

Mr. Richard Wainwright (Colne Valley) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, what functions, regulated by her department, are carried out by local authorities; and for a list of the Acts under which these functions are performed.

Mr. Williams said: 'Local Authorities carry out functions arising from the following Acts which are the responsibility of my department:

Metrology
Weights and Measures Act 1963.
The Measuring Instruments (EEC Requirements) Regulations 1975 made under the European Communities Act 1972.

Consumer Safety
Consumer Protection Acts 1961 and 1971.
Fabrics (Misdescription) Act 1913.
Home Safety Act 1961.
Section 21 Explosives Act 1875 – Registration of premises on which fireworks are kept.

Fair Trading
Trade Descriptions Acts 1968 and 1972.
Consumer Credit Act 1974.
Prices Acts 1974 and 1975.
Hallmarking Act 1973.'

Official Receivers' offices

Official Receivers are responsible for the administration of cases in bankruptcy and compulsory liquidation. Inquiries should be addressed to the nearest Official Receiver

High Court of Justice
Senior Official Receiver: J. B. Clemetson

Bankruptcy
Thomas More Building, Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2JY (Tel: 01-405 7641)
Official Receivers: D. A. Thorne; J. Tye

Companies Winding-up
Atlantic House, Holborn Viaduct, London EC1N 2HD
(Tel: 01-583 8931)
Official Receivers: L. R. Bates; N. Saddler; H. W. J. Christmas

Birmingham
Commercial Union House, Martineau Square, Birmingham B2 4UP
(Tel: 021-236 8831/7)
A. D. Gwyther; J. F. Hirst

Bournemouth
Burlington Arcade, Bournemouth BH1 2JS
(Tel: 0202-28208/9)
R. F. Savage

Bradford
West Riding House, Cheapside, Bradford BD1 4LJ
(Tel: 0274-33651/2)
V. Duffy

Brighton
Windsor House (East Entrance), 30-35 Edward Street, Brighton BN2 2JZ
(Tel: 0273-64301/4 and 688265/8)
J. F. O'Reilly

Bristol
Sun Alliance House, 4 Colston Avenue, Bristol BS1 4BN
(Tel: 0272-290268)
D. S. Clackett

Cambridge
49 Bateman Street, Cambridge CB2 1LT
(Tel: 0223-53930 and 59646)
W. J. Llewellyn

Canterbury
Lombard House, 12-17 Upper Bridge Street, Canterbury CT1 2NQ
(Tel: 0227-62070 and 65037)
A. R. Haigh

Cardiff
3rd Floor, Hayes House, The Hayes, Cardiff CF1 2UG
(Tel: 0222-30575/6/7)
B. J. Longley

Chester
Dee Hills Park, Chester CH3 5AR
(Tel: 0244-21471/2)
J. Carney

Croydon
Park House, 22 Park Street, Croydon CR9 1TX
(Tel: 01-681 2633)
R. A. D. Copper

Exeter
Eastgate House, High Street, Exeter EX4 3JU
(Tel: 0392-55445)
A. J. Seldon

Gloucester
Grosvenor House, Station Road, Gloucester GL1 1ST
(Tel: 0452-21658/9 and 27997)
H. W. Kirkwood

Hull
Beverley House, St. Stephen's Square, Hull HU1 3XF
(Tel: 0482-23720 and 23729)
J. E. Friend

Ipswich
St. Clare House, Greyfriars, Ipswich IP1 1LX
(Tel: 0473-56731)
T. A. Tuck

Leeds
Pearl Chambers, East Parade, Leeds LS1 5BX
(Tel: 0532-448851)
W. A. Bishop

Leicester
Prospect House, 94 Regent Road, Leicester LE1 7DE
(Tel: 0533-222513)
H. Roach

Liverpool
West Africa House, 25 Water Street, Liverpool L2 0RQ
(Tel: 051-236 9131/2)
K. Matthewson

Manchester
Townbury House, 11 Blackfriars Street, Salford M3 5AB
(Tel: 061-832 2471)
K. A. Miller; A. N. Percy

Newcastle upon Tyne
3rd Floor, 4 St. Nicholas Buildings, St. Nicholas Street, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 1RF (Tel: 0632-21104/5)
F. Durkin

Northampton
90 Abington Street Northampton NN1 2BX
(Tel: 0604-37288/9)
W. J. Llewellyn

Norwich
Davey House, Castle Meadow, Norwich NOR O2D
(Tel: 0603-28983/4)
T. A. Tuck

Nottingham
1 Collin Street, Nottingham NG1 7EP
(Tel: 0602-51596/8)
W. W. Jordan

Plymouth
63 New George Street, Plymouth PL1 1RD
(Tel: 0752-68554)
A. J. Seldon

Reading
PO Box No. 40, Monarch House, 75-79 Caversham Road Reading RG1 8AW
(Tel: 0734-581931/5)
E. A. Perkins

Rochester
Gordon House, Star Hill, Rochester
(Tel: 0634-42603 and 46906)
A. R. Haigh

St. Annes-on-Sea
Petros House, St. Andrews Road North, Lytham St. Annes FY8 2JD
(Tel: 0253-721271)
M. Clark

Sheffield
8/12 Furnival Gate, The Moor, Sheffield S1 4QN
(Tel: 0742-26691/3)
T. Wilks

Southampton
21 London Road, Southampton SO9 1NQ
(Tel: 0703-23348/9 and 23340)
R. F. Savage

Southend
2nd Floor, Colman House, 61 Victoria Avenue, Southend-on-Sea SS2 6EF (Tel: 0702-41316/7)
F. L. Sage

Stockton
4 Bridge Road, Stockton-on-Tees, Teesside TS18 3BP
(Tel: 0642-65598/9)
F. Durkin

Stoke
London House, Hide Street, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 1QN
(Tel: 0782-45256/8)
A. K. Sales

Swansea
5th Floor, Sun Alliance Building, 166/167 St Helens' Road, Swansea SA1 5DL (Tel: 0792-428613)
P. W. Nunn

Watford
40 Clarendon Road, Watford WD1 1HJ
(Tel. 0923-44288)
F. L. Sage

European Community News

Ciec and agricultural prices on this month's ministerial agendas

Details about five meetings of the EEC council of ministers scheduled for this month were announced in the Commons by Roy Hattersley, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, on 4 February.

Foreign affairs
On Monday and Tuesday this week (9-10 February) the foreign ministers were to consider the work put in hand following the conference on international economic co-operation (Ciec). They were also expected to consider tropical products in the context of the current round of multilateral trade negotiations, the external lending of the European Investment Bank, the commission's formal opinion on Greek accession and the community's relations with Spain.

Agriculture
Agriculture ministers are due to meet on 16 and 17 February, and possibly on 18 and 23-24 of the month as well, to continue their discussions on common agricultural policy prices for 1976-77 and on measures for improving the community wine market.

Finance
Finance ministers will resume discussions on the joint community borrowing scheme and may also discuss Euratom loans for nuclear power stations on 16 February.

Research
On 24th of the month, subject to confirmation, research ministers are expected to consider proposals for a five-year community research programme in the field of controlled thermonuclear fusion and plasma physics including the Joint European Torus. Also before them will be proposed indirect action programmes on environmental research and development and biology and health protection.

Energy
Finally, Mr. Hattersley explained that if energy ministers were to meet during the month it was expected that they would discuss the proposals which the European council asked the commission to prepare on 1 and 2 December. These covered mechanisms to protect existing supplies and the development of alternative sources of energy, as well as the encouragement of energy conservation.

Coreper to consider draft convention on direct elections

A draft convention on direct elections to the European parliament, soon to be considered by the committee of permanent representatives in Brussels, will be submitted to the nine heads of government at their next meeting on 1-2 April.

The draft convention envisages that initially each member country should decide its own method of voting and whether or not the elected members should also be members of their national parliaments (the question of dual mandate). It proposes that the size of the parliament should be increased from the present 198 members to 355 and that they should be simultaneously elected for a five-year term throughout the community on 6, 7 and 8 May 1978. The seats would be allocated between the member states according to a formula weighted in favour of the smaller countries (see table below). The UK share of the seats would amount to 67.

First proposals in 1960
Following the signature of the Treaty of Rome which made provision for the parliament to 'draw up proposals for elections by direct universal sufferage in accordance with a uniform procedure in all member states' [Article 138 (3)], the first draft convention was produced by the parliament in 1960. This would have tripled the size of the parliament,

National representation in the European parliament

Country	Present composition	Proposed composition
Belgium	14	23
Denmark	10	17
Germany	36	71
France	36	65
Ireland	10	13
Italy	36	66
Luxembourg	6	6
Netherlands	14	27
UK	36	67
TOTAL	198	355

Commission green paper now available

The commission's green paper on employee participation and company structure in the EEC has now been published as a supplement to the *Bulletin of the European Communities**.

The document, which was published by the commission on 20 November last year, examines in detail the requirement for, and the problem of, introducing employee participation at board level, and the proposed future companies structure in the community. It recommends that a dualist board system and employee participation on the supervisory board are valuable and realistic objectives, and that action should be taken on the associated issue of employees' representative institutions, such as works councils.

To reach these objectives, it strongly endorses the need for maximum flexibility in each member state and proposes that they be approached in stages.

The paper suggests that there is a need for the commission to ensure a suitable community framework for the measures adopted by members states in order to guide them towards common objectives.

In itself, the green paper will have no impact on UK law. But it is intended to be complementary to the proposal for a fifth directive on the harmonisation of law in relation to the structure and administration of companies, and is expected to lead to a revision of this directive.

The aim of the document is to stimulate a constructive public debate about the reform of company structure. The underlying objective is to ensure that employees are properly consulted about all decisions affecting their work, status and livelihood. The paper suggests a series of common guidelines that allow the consideration of a number of alternatives and deals specifically with certain policy areas: these are the composition and functions of the supervisory and management boards; the method of election of employee representatives; the negotiation of collective agreements (collective bargaining); confidential disclosure; the legal duties and responsibilities of directors; representative institutions; groups of companies and their subsidiaries; and share participation.

As part of the British Government's commitment to a radical extension of industrial democracy in this country, the Secretary of State for Trade, Peter Shore, set up an independent committee of inquiry in December last year. The committee has now held six meetings. It may be reached at 13 Bloomsbury Square, London WC1, tel. 01-405 9056.

The Government's final position on the commission green paper will not be known until the committee has completed its examination and report on the question of employee participation on the boards of companies (see Home News, page 432.)

*Available from HMSO (ISBN 0 11 935194 3) price £1.50 (1.66 postage paid).

which then had 142 members, and two-thirds of the members would have been directly elected while the remainder continued to be nominated by national parliaments.

After the accession of the UK, Denmark and Ireland in 1973, the parliament's political affairs committee began work on a new draft convention and the Dutch Socialist member, Schelto Patijn, was appointed to produce a report on direct elections by the end of 1974.

The subject came up for discussion by the heads of government at their summit meeting in December 1974 and in their communiqué they suggested a timetable for direct elections 'at any time in or after 1978', with a wish that the council should act on the Patijn report in 1976. The UK and Danish governments expressed their reservations – the UK on the grounds that any decision at that stage depended on the outcome of the renegotiation process and the subsequent referendum.

The council set up a working party on direct elections following the referendum confirmation of UK membership in June last year and preliminary discussions between a parliamentary delegation and the council of foreign ministers on the draft convention – which is based on the text of the Patijn report – took place on 5 November.

The question of direct elections was on the agenda once again at the European council meeting in December and the nine heads of government agreed that direct elections would take place in May or June 1978. But, as the Prime Minister pointed out in a statement to the House of Commons on 4 December, any member state unable to hold direct elections at that date would be allowed to appoint its representatives, as at present.

UK position

Following the December summit, Mr. Wilson explained that the UK accepted in principle the commitment to direct elections provided for in the Treaty of Rome, but said that the Government required time to consult other political parties and to allow the matter to be considered by Parliament.

In a letter to the chairman of the European Movement on 12 January, Mr. Wilson said that the UK had no intention of dragging its feet on the issue. 'You suggest,' he went on, 'in your letter that there is ample time between now and May or June 1978 to make the legislative arrangements which will be necessary in this country before direct elections could be introduced. This may turn out to be the case, and I can assure you that the Government will do its best to ensure that the legislation is ready in time.'

The UK position on the proposals currently being examined by Coreper will be outlined in a white paper expected this month. Details about the membership of the current UK delegation to the parliament appear on page 458.

Suspension of CCT on parts and components for aeroplanes and helicopters

Unladen weight exceeding 2,000kg but not exceeding 15,000kg.

In 12 December 1975 issue of *Trade and Industry* the Department of Trade announced that the suspension of EEC Common Customs Tariff duties on parts and components for the construction of aeroplanes and helicopters in the weight range indicated above would be reviewed in 1976. It was stated that a further announcement would be made about any specific requests for such duty suspensions.

Applications for total CCT duty suspensions have now been submitted to the EEC Commission for the items set out in Schedules 1 and 2 below.

Three possibilities are being considered. These are that any duty suspensions which may eventually be agreed will apply to components for the construction, (and possibly repair and maintenance) of:

1 all types of aeroplanes and helicopters in this weight range; or

2 all types of Community-built aeroplanes and helicopters in this weight range; or

3 particular specified types of aeroplanes and helicopters.

If any United Kingdom company considers:

a that they could now or in the near future manufacture and supply any of the listed parts and components for use in the construction, maintenance or repair of all the aircraft included in either 1 or 2 above or for use exclusively in the construction, maintenance or repair of the VFW 614 (items in schedule 1 only) or the Fokker F27 (items in schedule 2 only); and

b that a suspension of the CCT duty on the product concerned on any of the assumptions 1, 2 or 3 above would be detrimental to their interests

they should inform the Department of Trade. Respondents should make it clear whether they would object to a suspension on all the assumptions 1, 2 and 3 or only on one or two of them.

All the information requested in this notice should be sent not later than 27 February 1976 to the Department of Trade, Tariff Division, Kingsgate House, 66/74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ (tel. 01-215 5512). The closing date for the receipt of representations in response to the earlier notice in 12 December 1975 issue is postponed to the same date.

Schedule 1

CCT tariff heading	Description of goods
39.02.C.VI	Acrylonitrilebutadiene styrene in sheets specially designed for lining the internal walls of aeroplanes
62.05.C	Passenger escape chutes
70.02.A	Superfine glass fibre of low moisture absorption capacity
76.02	Square angles, of aluminium, shapes and wire, of aluminium.
76.03	Plates and sheets of variable thickness obtained by lamination for widths of 1,200 mm or more.
84.08.B.II	Gas turbines developing a power of more than 360 kW
84.59.E	Hydraulic servo-motors.
84.61.A	Pressure reducing valves.
84.61.B	Valves used in air-conditioning or cabin pressurisation systems.
84.63	Constant speed drive (CSD) apparatus.
85.01.A.II	Generators in the anti-skid control system incorporated in the landing gear.
85.01.B	Rectifying transformers with a direct current output of 100 amps at 28 volts.
85.15.A.II	HF transmitter-receiver apparatus : – VOR navigational receivers complying with standard ARINC 547. – ILS navigational receivers complying with standard ARINC 550. – DME navigational transmitter-receiver apparatus complying with standard ARINC 568. – ADF radio navigation transmitter/receiver apparatus complying with standard ARINC 564.
90.28.A	Terrestrial magnetic-field detector apparatus, by saturation of magnetic circuits (flux-valve). Air-speed indicators and associated instruments. Stall warning calculators. Apparatus for fuel consumption flow control. Electronic regulators for air-conditioning.
90.28.B	Indicator apparatus for pressure of fuel and jet-engine oil. Oil contents gauge for jet-engine control. Speed indicator apparatus for air-speed indicators and jet-engine control. Temperature indicator apparatus for air-speed indicators and jet-engine control.

Schedule 2

CCT tariff heading	Description of goods
38.19. ex P	Preparations known as 'liquids for hydraulic transmission' (for example, hydraulic brake fluids) not containing or containing less than 70% by weight of petroleum oils or oils obtained from bituminous minerals : – Based on silicate or phosphoric esters.
39.02.C.VI	Acrylonitrilebutadiene styrene, in sheets specially designed for lining the internal walls of aeroplanes.
70.20.A	Superfine glass fibre of low moisture absorption capacity.
73.20	Tube and pipe fittings (for example, joints, elbows, unions and flanges) of iron or steel.
76.03	Aluminium plates and sheets of variable thickness obtained by lamination for widths of 1,200mm or more
76.06	Tubes and pipes and blanks therefor, of aluminium ; hollow bars of aluminium.
76.07	Tube and pipe fittings (for example, joints, elbows, sockets and flanges), of aluminium.
83.07	Lamps and lighting fittings, of base metal, and parts thereof, of base metal (excluding switches, electric lamp holders, electric lamps for vehicles, electric battery or magneto lamps, and other articles falling within Chapter 85 except heading no. 85.22).
84.10	Pumps (including motor pumps and turbo pumps) for liquids, whether or not fitted with measuring devices ; liquid elevators of bucket, chain, screw, band and similar kinds.
84.59.E	Windscreen wipers and toilet units specially designed for aircraft.
84.61.A	Pressure reducing valves.
84.61.B	Valves used in air-conditioning and cabin pressurisation systems.
85.01.A	D.C. generators of a power of 10.5 kW Rotary converters of AC 115 V, 400Hz. of a power of 250VA or 1,800 VA AC generators, 120/208 V, of a power of 15 kVA. Electric actuators for control of auxiliary flaps and ailerons.
85.01.B	Static converters of a power of 250 VA, transforming a direct current of 28 volts into alternating current of 115 volts.
85.15.A.II	HF transmitter-receiver apparatus.
85.15.A.III	Receivers, whether or not combined with a sound recorder of reproducer, excluding radio-broadcasting or television apparatus.
85.15.B	Weather radar apparatus and VOR/ILS equipment.
85.15.C.II	Parts of base metal, obtained by turning bars,

Schedule 2 continued

CCT tariff heading	Description of goods
	angles, shapes, sections or wire, of solid section, the greatest diameter of which does not exceed 25mm
85.15.C.III	Parts of the items listed under A.II, A.III and B above.
90.14.B	Altimeters and climbing speed indicators for the cabin pressure regulating system.
90.24.C	Pneumatic regulators used in air-conditioning and cabin pressurisation systems.
90.28.A	Fuel quantity indicators.
	Control units (voltage regulators; transistorised).
	Flux valves.
	Compensators.
	Directional gyro radio magnetic indicators.
	Dual amplifiers.
	Electronic regulators for air-conditioning.
	Electronic timers for de-icing equipment.
90.28.B	Pressure transmitters.
	Dual pressure indicators.
	Thermoresistors, cabin and thermal limiting.
	Stall warning systems.
	Transducers.
	Tank units (transmitters, fuel level).
	Tank units (transmitters, water-methanol level).
	Water/methanol quantity indicators.
	Flap position indicators.
	Flap position transmitters.
	Outside temperature indicators (−50°C to +50°C).
	Generator control panel.
	Ammeters and voltmeters.
90.29.A	Parts of goods listed in 90.28.A above.
90.29.B	Parts of goods listed in 90.28.B above.
92.11.A.II	Music reproducers and automatic announcers.

Temporary suspension of the Common Customs Tariff

In the 19 December 1975 issue of *Trade and Industry* (pages 799-801), the Department of Trade gave notice of the review of existing suspensions of the Common Customs Tariff in the agricultural and industrial sectors.

Notice is now given that member states have raised objections to the continuation beyond 30 June 1976 of the following suspensions:

ex 29.01 CI	Pinenes
ex 29.34 B	Dimethyltin dichloride
es 29.35 Q	Thiabendazole
ex 29.44 C	Nystatin

In addition a request has been made for the existing total suspension of duty on rose hips, fresh (ex 08.09) to be widened to apply to frozen rose hips.

Interested parties who wish to make representations concerning these proposals should send them in writing to the Department of Trade, General Division, Room 332, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ, not later than 27 February 1976. Tel. 01-215 5515 (chemicals) and 01-215 3576 (other goods).

New EC legislation

The legislation listed below has been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* as indicated against each item. The *Official Journal* is now published in English and copies should be obtained from HMSO. Information about the items listed, in so far as other member states' requirements are concerned, is available to British exporters from Department of Trade, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel. 01-248 5757, ext. 7174/482/408). Other information may be obtained from the reference point given at the end of the item.

Common agricultural policy

The texts of the following regulations and decision which affect the various agricultural sectors in the EEC have been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities:*

Eggs. Regulation (EEC) 161/76 laying down special detailed rules for the application of the system of accession compensatory amounts in order to prevent deflections of trade in the egg sector (*Official Journal* L18, 27 January 1976).

Milk and milk products. Regulation (EEC) 196/76 laying down special rules governing the payment of the refund for skimmed-milk powder for use as feed in the country of destination (*Official Journal* L23, 30 January 1976).

Cattle, beef and veal. Decision 76/156/EEC concerning the issue of import licences for beef and veal products originating in Botswana, Kenya, Madagascar and Swaziland (*Official Journal* L23, 30 January 1976).

Oils, fats and oilseeds. Corrigendum. The *Official Journal* L19, 28 January 1976 contains the following correction to Regulation (EEC) 3366/75 (published in *Official Journal* L333, 30 December 1975) amending Regulations (EEC) 616/72 and (EEC) 618/72 and the Common Customs Tariff nomenclature in respect of olive oil:

Page 15, Annex I, 2 B (c), third line:
for: 'K = Km − 0.05 . . .'
read: 'K = Km − 0.5 . . .'

Fish and fish products. The *Official Journal* L20, 28 January 1976 contains the texts of the following regulations:

Regulation (EEC) 100/76 on the common organisation of the market in fishery products.

Regulation (EEC) 101/76 laying down a common structural policy for the fishing industry.

Regulation (EEC) 102/76 on customs treatment to be applied to certain fishery products originating in Norway.

Regulation (EEC) 103/76 laying down common marketing standards for certain fresh or chilled fish.

Regulation (EEC) 104/76 laying down common marketing standards for shrimps of the genus 'Crangon' sp.p.

Regulation (EEC) 105/76 on the recognition of producers' organisations in the fishing industry.

Regulation (EEC) 106/76 on granting and reimbursing aids granted by member states to producers' organisations in the fishing industry.

Regulation (EEC) 107/76 laying down general rules for determining the percentage of the guide price to be used to calculate the withdrawal price for certain fishery products.

Regulation (EEC) 108/76 laying down general rules for determining, in the fishery sector, the landing areas situated at a considerable distance from the main centres of consumption in the community.

Regulation (EEC) 109/76 laying down general rules for granting compensation to producers of tunny for the canning industry.

Regulation (EEC) 110/76 laying down general rules for granting export refunds on fishery products and criteria for fixing the amount of such refunds.

Regulation (EEC) 111/76 concerning imports into the community of fishery products originating in Morocco.

Regulation (EEC) 112/76 concerning imports into the community of fishery products originating in Tunisia.

Regulation (EEC) 113/76 on imports into the community of fishery products originating in Turkey.

Regulation (EEC) 114/76 fixing the guide prices for the fishery products listed in Annex II to Regulation (EEC) 100/76 for the 1976 fishing year.

Regulation (EEC) 115/76 fixing the guide prices for the fishery products listed in Annex I (A) and (C) to Regulation (EEC) 100/76 for the 1976 fishing year.

Regulation (EEC) 116/76 fixing the intervention prices for fresh or chilled sardines and anchovies for the 1976 fishing year.

Regulation (EEC) 117/76 fixing the community producer price of tunny intended for the canning industry for the first two months of the 1976 fishing year.

Commercial policy

Imports. The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L18, 27 January 1976 contains the text of Regulation (EEC) 162/76 subjecting to authorisation imports into Italy of cast-iron tube and pipe fittings originating in Taiwan.

Special relations agreements

Origin rules. The texts of the following regulations applying decisions taken by the joint committee set up under the various special relations agreements, on the definition of the concept of 'originating products' and the methods of administrative co-operation have been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* L338, 31 December 1975:

Regulation (EEC) 3420/75 on the application of Decisions 1/75 and 2/75 of the EEC-Austria joint committee concerning the methods of administrative co-operation.

Decision 1/75 of the joint committee amending Article 23 of Protocol 3 concerning the definition of the concept of 'originating products' and methods of administrative co-operation.

Decision 2/75 of the joint committee amending Protocol 3 concerning the definition of the concept of 'originating products' and methods of administrative co-operation and amending joint committee Decision 3/73 and repealing joint committee Decision 4/73.

Regulation (EEC) 3421/75 on the application of Decisions 1/75 and 2/75 of the EEC-Finland joint committee concerning the methods of administrative co-operation.

Decision 1/75 of the joint committee amending Article 23 of Protocol 3 concerning the definition of the concept of 'originating products' and methods of administrative co-operation.

Decision 2/75 of the joint committee amending Protocol 3 concerning the definition of the concept of 'originating products' and methods of administrative co-operation and amending joint committee decision 4/74 and repealing joint committee Decision 5/74.

Regulation (EEC) 3422/75 on the application of Decisions 1/75 and 2/75 of the EEC-Iceland joint committee concerning the methods of administrative co-operation.

Decision 1/75 of the joint committee amending Article 23 of Protocol 3 concerning the definition of the concept of 'originating products' and methods of administrative co-operation.

Decision 2/75 of the joint committee amending Protocol 3 concerning the definition of the concept of 'originating products' and methods of administrative co-operation and amending joint committee Decision 3/73 and repealing joint committee Decision 4/73.

Regulation (EEC) 3423/75 on the application of Decisions 1/75 and 2/75 of the EEC-Norway joint committee concerning the methods of administrative co-operation.

Decision 1/75 of the joint committee amending Article 23 of Protocol 3 concerning the definition of the concept of 'originating products' and methods of administrative co-operation.

Decision 2/75 of the joint committee amending Protocol 3 concerning the definition of the concept of 'originating products' and methods of administrative co-operation and amending joint committee Decision 3/73 and repealing joint committee Decision 4/73.

Regulation (EEC) 3424/75 on the application of Decisions 1/75 and 2/75 of the EEC-Portugal joint committee concerning the methods of administrative co-operation.

Decision 1/75 of the joint committee amending Article 23 of Protocol 3 concerning the definition of the concept of 'originating products' and the methods of administrative co-operation.

Decision 2/75 of the joint committee amending Protocol 3 concerning the definition of the concept of 'originating products' and methods of administrative co-operation and amending joint committee Decision 3/73 and repealing joint committee Decision 4/73.

Regulation (EEC) 3425/75 on the application of Decisions 1/75 and 2/75 of the EEC-Sweden joint committee concerning the methods of administrative co-operation.

Decision 1/75 of the joint committee amending Article 23 of Protocol 3 concerning the definition of the concept of 'originating products' and methods of administrative co-operation.

Decision 2/75 of the joint committee amending Protocol 3 concerning the definition of the concept of 'originating products' and methods of administrative co-operation and amending joint committee Decision 3/73 and repealing joint committee Decision 4/73.

Regulation (EEC) 3426/75 on the application of Decision 1/75 and 2/75 of the EEC-Switzerland joint committee concerning the methods of administrative co-operation.

Decision 1/75 of the joint committee amending Article 23 of Protocol 3 concerning the definition of the concept of 'originating products' and methods of administrative co-operation.

Decision 2/75 of the joint committee amending Protocol 3 concerning the definition of the concept of 'originating products' and methods of administrative co-operation and amending joint committee Decision 3/73 and repealing joint committee Decision 4/73.

The English texts of the above agreements, all of which except Norway were amended by supplementary protocols published in the *Official Journal* L106, 26 April 1975, were published in the Special Edition of the *Official Journal of the European Communities* in 1972.

Further information. Department of Trade, General Division, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1 E6SJ, tel. 01-212 5713/5750. (Origin rules) HM Customs and Excise, Kings Beam House, 39-41 Mark Lane, London EC3R 7HE, tel. 01-626 1515 ext. 2454 (Movement certificates).

Secondary legislation of the European communities

Corrigenda to the special editions of the 'Official Journal'

The European communities have recently published a consolidated edition of corrigenda* to the first series of the *Special Editions of the Official Journal* (English version). The special editions, published in 1972-73, contained translations of community instruments made between 1952 and 1972 which were still in force at 31 December 1972.

The special editions formed the basis of the subject edition of secondary legislation published by HMSO in 1974, and therefore these corrigenda should also be consulted by users of the subject edition.

These corrigenda are published as a consolidated edition and supersede the supplement to the *Official Journal* of August 1973 (22 pages).

* Supplement to the first series of *Special Editions (1952-1972) of the Official Journal of the European Communities:* Consolidated edition of corrigenda. July 1975. English editions. 115 pages. Available gratis from HMSO.

Applications for copies of the 'Official Journal of the European Communities' containing the legislation referred to should be made to HMSO and not to the inquiry points given in the notices.

Time Rates of Wages and Hours of Work

A volume of tables giving particulars of the minimum, or standard, time rates of wages for the more important industries and occupations, and of the normal weekly hours for which these rates are payable. The details given relate to the position as at April 1, 1974, but any later changes known to have come into operation are shown.

£2.40 (*by post* £2.57).

Government publications can be bought from the Government Bookshops in London (post orders to PO Box 569, SE1 9NH). Edinburgh, Cardiff, Belfast, Manchester, Birmingham and Bristol, or through booksellers

HMSO BOOKS

Global EEC tariff quotas for 1977

The Department of Trade has been asked by the EEC commission to provide by the beginning of March statistical data in order to enable them to make proposals for renewing, for 1977, certain annual community 'global' tariff quotas. These are full or partial suspensions of duties on a limited quantity (or quota) of imports from all sources outside the EEC. The information requested is for past (1975) and expected (1977) domestic consumption and production, imports by individual member states (divided into those from other member states and those from other dutiable and non-dutiable sources) and exports outside the community. This information is being sought by departments from industry where it is not available from official statistics.

A list of global tariff quotas concerned is set out below showing the categories into which they fall. These are:

1 tariff quotas the EEC is bound to open to satisfy obligations made under the Gatt;
2 tariff quotas provided for under Protocols to the Act of Accession; and
3 'autonomous' tariff quotas, ie those which, although the EEC has no international obligation, member states may unanimously agree among themselves to establish.

The list shows in the case of the Gatt quotas the annual quantity of imports into the community as a whole that the EEC is bound to admit duty free, except for unwrought magnesium where the obligation is of a special nature. For each Protocol tariff quota the conditions are shown for establishing it in 1977 with an indication of how the maximum size is calculated in certain cases. For the Gatt quotas the unanimous agreement of member states (as in the case of autonomous quotas) is required for any increase above the minimum prescribed. Any increase above the maxima, where prescribed, for the Protocol quotas likewise depends on the unanimous agreement of member states. The allocation of any quota among member states is also a matter to be settled between them.

United Kingdom producers may object to the renewal of the autonomous tariff quotas where they consider that they could themselves supply the whole or the greater part of community import requirements and that their interests as community suppliers might be prejudiced by the loss of intra-community tariff preferences or by reduced tariff protection in the UK which would be entailed by a duty-free or reduced-duty tariff quota for imports from third countries. UK producers may also object to any increase above the minima in the Gatt ferro-alloy tariff quotas or, in the case of the Protocol quotas, any increase above the limits set for unwrought lead (other than bullion lead) and unwrought zinc; and they may suggest upper limits for the community quotas, and UK shares, for coniferous plywood and newsprint.

Any producer wishing to object, or to suggest limits as indicated in the previous paragraph, should provide as much as possible of the following information by 23 February at the latest:

1 estimated community (nine countries including the UK) demand in 1977;
2 estimated UK demand in 1977;
3 UK production expected to be available for:
   a the UK market in 1977;
   b the rest of the community in 1977;
   c exports to other countries for the same year.

As stated in the first paragraph, the Department of Trade is assembling information needed by the EEC commission. If, however, any user of the goods in question considers he has information that might be relevant and has not already been provided for this purpose to the Department of Trade, the Department of Industry or the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, he should send it to the Department of Trade as soon as possible.

All information provided by producers or users should be sent in writing to the Department of Trade, General Division, Room 333, Kingsgate House, 66-74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ.

Community tariff quotas expected to be opened for exports from all third countries in 1977
(Expected quota duty rate zero except where indicated by †)

Tariff heading	Item	Community's obligation under Gatt	Protocol to the Act of Accession	Autonomous
03.01AII	Certain fresh eels for processing	—	—	autonomous
08.04BI	Certain dried grapes†	—	—	autonomous
38.08A	Rosins including brais resineux	—	—	autonomous
ex 44.15AI	Certain plywood of coniferous species	400,00 cu m duty-free annually	Protocol 11 provides for nil-duty quotas to be opened, the volume to be decided annually when it is established that all possibilities of supply on the internal market of the community will be exhausted for that year	Anything above 400,000 cu m
48.01A ex 48.01E	Newsprint	1.5 million tonnes duty-free annually	Protocol 13 provides for an autonomous nil-duty quota to be opened annually for 48.01A, when it has been established that all possibilities of supply on the internal market of the community will be exhausted for that year	Anything above 1.5 million tonnes
50.02¶	Raw silk	—	—	autonomous
ex 50.04B¶	Yarn wholly of silk†	—	—	autonomous
ex 50.05B¶	Yarn wholly of silk waste other than noil†	—	—	autonomous
73.02C	Ferro-silicon	20,000 tonnes duty-free annually	—	—
73.02D	Ferro-silico-manganese	50,000 tonnes duty-free annually	—	—
ex 73.02EI	Ferro-chromium containing not more than 0.1% by weight of carbon and more than 30% but not more than 90% of chromium	3,000 tonnes duty-free annually	—	—
ex 73.02EI	High carbon ferro-chrome‡	—	—	autonomous
ex 77.01A	Unwrought magnesium*	Duty-free quota to cover all community requirements not covered by community production	—	—
78.01AII	Unwrought lead other than bullion lead§	—	Protocol 14 provides for a nil-duty quota of 55,000 tonnes in 1974, decreasing annually thereafter to the end of 1977 when it is to be abolished. (It is 27,000 tonnes in 1976)	—
79.01A	Unwrought zinc	—	Protocol 15 provides for a nil-duty quota, decreasing annually to the end of 1977 when it is to be abolished. (It is 10,000 tonnes in 1976)	

† The quota rates of duty in 1977 are likely to be:
08.04BIa) *Full rate* £0.0393 per 100kg plus 0.9%; *Commonwealth rate* 0.9%
b) *Full rate* £0.0787 per 100kg plus 0.9%; *Commonwealth rate* 0.9%
ex 50.04B 2.5%
ex 50.05B Dyed 1%, Undyed 0.8% } Up to 1.7.77 and thereafter 1% for both subheadings

§ The duty on bullion lead was reduced to zero at 1.1.76.
‡ The introduction of any quota for this item for 1977 will depend upon agreement among the member states.
* This quota may be split into separate amounts for different types as in 1976.
¶ The EEC has agreed to have the tariff quotas only till the end of 1976 and it is not certain whether they will be continued in 1977.

EEC – your questions answered

This week, we are publishing a selection of questions put to the Department of Industry's EEC Information Unit during the past month.

The Unit helps businessmen by answering general questions about EEC membership. Its prime responsibility is with those matters which are the concern of the Departments of Industry, Trade, Prices and Consumer Protection, but it is usually possible to direct an inquirer to sources of specialist advice in other Government departments.

Contact the Unit by ringing 01-215 4301 (six lines) or by writing to the EEC Information Unit, Department of Industry, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.

Changes in British delegation

Q. I understand there have been one or two changes in the British delegation to the European parliament. Can you give me the latest details?

A. In fact there has only been one change in membership of the delegation. Among the Conservative members, Alex Fletcher (Edinburgh North) has replaced John Corrie (Ayrshire North and Bute). One or two of the committees have been reorganised, however, and some delegates are now serving on different committees. The details are given below:

Labour

Lord Ardwick	Economic and monetary affairs; cultural affairs and youth
Guy Barnett (*Greenwich*)	External economic relations; associations
Betty Boothroyd (*West Bromwich West*)	Development and co-operation
Lord Bruce of Donington	Budgets
Lord Castle	Political affairs; external economic relations
Tam Dalyell (*West Lothian*)	Budgets; energy research and technology
Sir Geoffrey de Freitas (*Kettering*)	Legal affairs; development and co-operation; rules of procedure and petitions
Gwyneth Dunwoody (*Crewe*)	Agriculture; social affairs and employment
Tom Ellis (*Wrexham*)	Regional policy and transport; energy research and technology
John Evans (*Newton*)	Regional policy and transport; public health and environment
Lady Fisher of Rednal	Public health and environment; cultural affairs and youth
Lord Gordon Walker	Economic and monetary affairs
Willie Hamilton (*Fife Central*)	Regional policy and transport; rules of procedure and petitions; energy research and technology
Mark Hughes (*Durham*)	Agriculture; associations
Richard Mitchell (*Southampton Itchen*)	Political affairs; cultural affairs and youth
John Prescott (*Kingston-upon-Hull East*)	Economic and monetary affairs; social affairs and employment
Michael Stewart (*Fulham*)	Political affairs
Lord Walston	Agriculture; development and co-operation

New European parliamentarian Alex Fletcher joined the British delegation in January. He sits on two committees – budgets, and regional policy and transport.

Conservative

Lord Bessborough	Budgets; energy research and technology
Lord Bethell	Public health and environment; associations
Hugh Dykes (*Harrow East*)	Economic and monetary affairs; external economic relations
Alex Fletcher (*Edinburgh North*)	Budgets; regional policy and transport
Ralph Howell (*Norfolk North*)	Social affairs and employment; agriculture
Elaine Kellett-Bowman (*Lancaster*)	Regional policy and transport; cultural affairs and youth
Sir Peter Kirk (*Saffron Walden*)	Political affairs
Tom Normanton (*Cheadle*)	Energy research and technology; social affairs and employment
John Osborn (*Sheffield, Hallam*)	Regional policy and transport; energy research and technology
Lord Reay	Political affairs; development and co-operation
Sir Brandon Rhys Williams (*Kensington*)	Legal affairs; economic and monetary affairs
Lord St. Oswald	Agriculture; development and co-operation
James Scott-Hopkins (*Derbyshire West*)	Political affairs; agriculture; external economic relations
Michael Shaw (*Scarborough*)	Legal affairs; budgets
Jim Spicer (*Dorset West*)	Health and environment; external economic relations
Sir Derek Walker-Smith (*Hertfordshire East*)	Legal affairs; rules of procedure and petitions

Liberal

Lord Gladwyn	Political affairs

Scottish National Party

Winifred Ewing (*Moray and Nairn*)	Legal affairs

International road haulage

Q. I think there have been changes in the EEC rules governing international road haulage operations. Can you explain the details?

A. As you probably know, certain road haulage operations between the UK and other member states have not required permits since July 1974. Permit exemptions apply to vehicles which have a maximum permissible laden weight (including any trailer) not exceeding 6 tonnes (5.9 tons) or which have a maximum permissible payload (including that of any trailer) not exceeding 3.5 tonnes (3.44 tons).

Enforcement officers in other EEC countries have been advised that the maximum permissible laden weight of vehicles of 8 cwt to 2½ tons unladen weight, and first used on or after 1 January 1968, can be found on a manufacturers' plate or otherwise on the DoE plate. To qualify for permit exemption, operators should therefore ensure that the vehicles they use carry the appropriate plate and that this plate is brought to the attention of the enforcement officers on the journey.

Another important exemption affects vehicles on short journeys to and from roll-on/roll-off ferry terminals. No permits are required when the vehicle carries goods from a place within a radius of 25km of the UK port of embarkation to a place within a radius of 25km of the port of disembarkation in a community country (or vice versa). Other permit-free operations, some of which already apply under the terms of bilateral road haulage agreements, include:

1 Carriage of goods to or from airports in the event of air services being diverted;
2 Carriage of luggage in trailers coupled to passenger carrying vehicles;
3 Carriage of mails;
4 Carriage of damaged vehicles;
5 Carriage of refuse and sewage;
6 Carriage of animal carcases for disposal;
7 Carriage of bees and fish fry;
8 Funeral transport;
9 Carriage of articles required for medical care in emergency relief, in particular for natural disasters;
10 Carriage of valuable goods (eg. precious metals) in special vehicles accompanied by the police or other security guards.

Details of the exemptions, which apply to both hire or reward and own-account operations, are given in Annex 1 to the first council directive on 23 July 1962 as amended by EEC Directives 72/426 and 74/129.

A more recent change in EEC rules governing international operations is concerned with the liberalisation of movements using the combined systems of road and rail. This follows the coming into force, from 1 October 1975, of the EEC Council Directive 75/130 which states that British road hauliers using the road/rail 'piggy-back' systems within EEC countries will be free of quota and permit restrictions.

However, because of a minority of British hauliers who have been operating on forged or illegally transferred permits, it have been necessary to devise a measure of control. British operators wishing to take advantage of the provisions of Directive 75/130 will therefore be required to give a written undertaking to the Department's International Road Freight Office that they intend to use French or West German road/rail systems. They will then be issued with a certificate which will satisfy enforcement staff that they are entitled to leave the country on an international journey. The certificate should also facilitate entry into France or West Germany where it will be stamped by the appropriate railway authority as proof that the 'piggy-back' service has been used.

Application forms for this certificate may be obtained from the International Road Freight Office. It will be an offence, under the International Road Haulage Permits Act 1975, to forge or make a false declaration to obtain a road/rail certificate.

Further information can be obtained from the International Road Freight Office, Department of the Environment, Low Friar House, 36/42 Low Friar Street, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE1 5XR, tel. 0632 610031.

Sending postal consignments to EEC

Q. Can you explain the documentation required for sending postal consignments to the EEC?

A. For goods that are in free circulation in the UK the following documents are required, irrespective of the destination in the EEC:

Postal parcels – Customs Declaration C2/CP3 (Benelux countries require two copies) and a Despatch Note (also known as the Postal Consignment Note or Bulletin d'Expedition).
Letter-post packets – A Despatch Note is not required, but a Customs Declaration has to be made on Form C2/CP3 unless the value is £50 or less, in which case a green Customs/Douane label (Form C1) may be used in lieu of the C2/CP3 for all destinations.

Goods in free circulation in the UK are entitled to the reduced intra-community rates of duty applicable on importation into another EEC country. Certain items exported to Denmark and the Republic of Ireland are entitled to more favourable rates of duty, and in these cases the following alternative procedures should be adopted:

Denmark – If the goods are valued at £50 or less, a Despatch Note should be sent, together with Customs Declaration C2/CP3 endorsed to the effect that 'All the above articles are of Anglo-Danish origin'. If the value exceeds £50, a C2/CP3 is required and an invoice endorsed in accordance with the Anglo-Danish free trade arrangements. The terms of the arrangements are set out in Customs Notice 830.

Irish Republic – A combined Despatch Note/Customs Declaration (PP69) can be used, supported by an Origin Declaration as shown on page 48 of the *Post Office Guide*, or by the special Certificate of Origin prescribed by the

EEC information

Free service for businessmen!
The EEC Information Unit helps firms of all types and sizes by answering general questions about EEC membership and by guiding them where necessary to more specialised information sources.
New customers are always welcome, particularly firms new to EEC questions.
The unit's address is: EEC Information Unit, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.
Tel. 01-215 4301 (six lines).

Irish Republic and obtainable from HM Customs and Excise.

For the minority of goods not in free circulation in the UK a Customs yellow label C1130 should be affixed to the package, as should any accompanying documents (eg an invoice). Goods not in free circulation will normally be under Customs control. If in any doubt about free circulation it is best to seek the advice of the local Customs and Excise Office.

The aim of the postal service is to clear most packages through Customs on the basis of information supplied by the exporter on the Customs Declaration Form and without bothering the importer. A copy of the invoice to support the declaration will often facilitate clearance especially where there is liability for duty. The *Post Office Guide* lists those countries which have made a specific request for an invoice.

Copies of the *Post Office Guide* can be purchased – price 20p (50p including postal amendment service) – from HMSO, PO Box 569, London SE1. Supplies of forms C2/CP3 and PP69, despatch notes and green labels are obtainable from all post offices. If very large stocks are required it is advisable to obtain these from Head or District Post Offices giving notice in writing if possible.

Readers may wish to make a note of the following addresses of postal headquarters in EEC countries:

Belgium
Administration Générale de la Régie des Postes Centre Monnaie, 1000 Brussels

Denmark
General Directorate of Posts and Telegraphs, 1530 Copenhagen V

France
Secrétariat D'Etat aux Postes et Télécommunications, Direction Générale des Postes, 75700, Paris

Germany
Federal Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, Adenauerallee 81, 53 Bonn

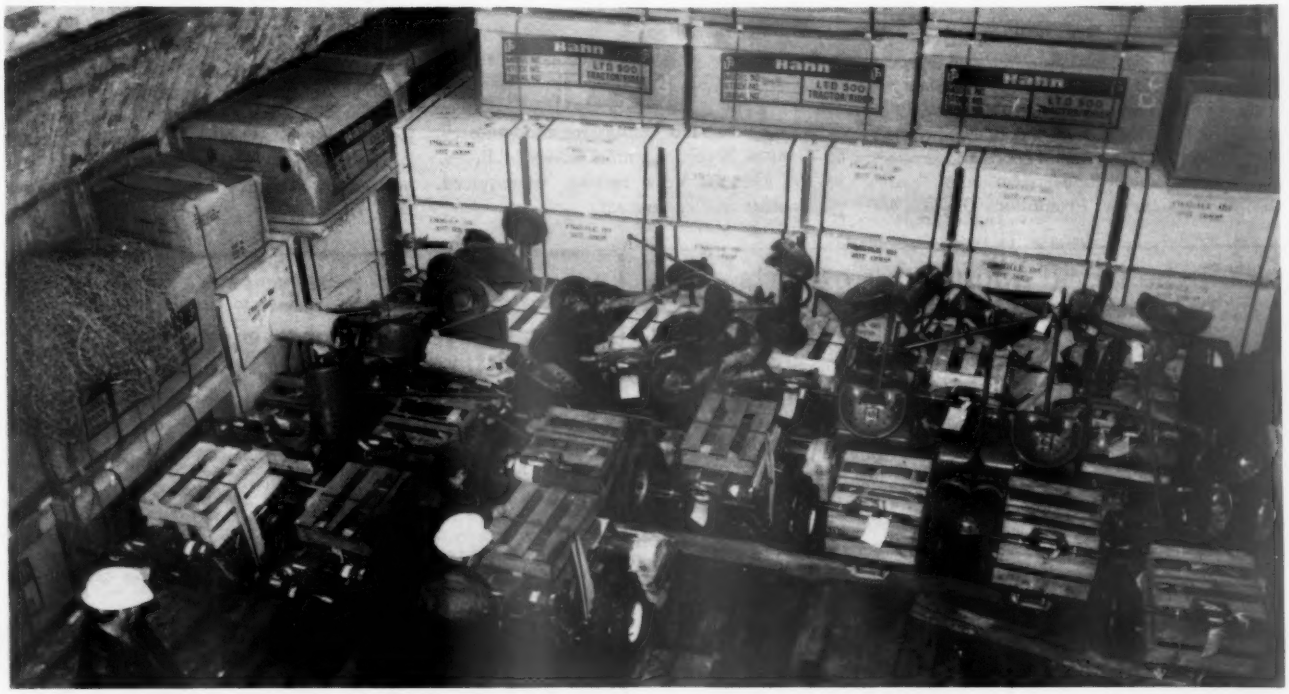
Great Britain
The Post Office, Postal Headquarters, London EC1A 1HQ

Irish Republic
Administration of Posts and Telegraphs, Dublin, Ireland

Italy
General Directorate of Posts and Telecommunications, Viale America, 00100 Rome

Luxembourg
Directorate of Posts and Telecommunications, Case Postale 999

Netherlands
General Directorate of PTT, The Hague.



Ransomes grass machinery is stowed in the hold of the 700-ton *Gena F*, which was filled completely by a £160,000 export order of Ransomes equipment for A. Verbeke and Sons, Ransomes professional grass machinery distributors in Belgium. The machinery was loaded at Mistley, 15 miles from Ransomes Ipswich factory, to make the crossing to Zeebrugge, 30 miles from Verbekes headquarters at Tielt. The cargo included just about every model in Ransomes range of professional machinery, plus a bulk spares order. Among the items were 240 Marquis mowers, 170 Ransomes-Hahn rotaries, and from the top end of the range, 12 Motor Triples and three Motor 5/3s. This is only a proportion of the grass machinery which Verbekes will be taking from Ransomes for the 1976 cutting season. Two of the Motor 5/3s have been sold by Verbekes to the local authority at Brugge, where Ransomes demonstrated the machine during their 1975 International Distributors Convention.

Government Publications in London

from

Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 49 High Holborn WC1V 6HB

BOTB British Overseas Trade Board

Asian Development Bank visitor

Mr. Wolf Kluber, deputy director of the Operations Department at the Asian Development Bank, Manila, will visit the UK in early March. He will have discussions with several organisations at present active in project sectors financed by the bank.

Loans approved by the Asian Development Bank in 1974 were to the following sectors (US$ million): industry, including development banks (186.87); agriculture (133.95); transport and communications (81.51); electric power (76.55); water supply (68.80).

In addition to these technical discussions, other organisations or individuals wishing to hear Mr. Kluber are invited to attend a meeting which is being organised by the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Tuesday, 2 March, at 3 p.m. in the chamber's council room. Mr. Kluber will be speaking about the bank's policies and practices in the procurement of goods and services. A representative of the Department of Trade's Export Services and Promotions Division will also be present to outline the methods by which information about ADB-financed projects is disseminated to UK firms. Questions from the floor will be welcomed.

Following the meeting, there will be a reception in the St. Paul's suite of the chamber where participants can continue to exchange information in an informal atmosphere. The charge for this function is £6.00 (plus 48p VAT) for members of the International Division of the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and £7.00 (plus 56p VAT) for non-members. No tickets will be issued, but lapel badges will be handed to participants on arrival.

Applications to attend this meeting should be addressed to The Secretary, Asia and Pacific Section, International Division, The London Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 69 Cannon Street, London EC4N 5AB, tel. 01-248 4444 (if VAT invoice is required, please state and enclose s.a.e.).

New SITPRO chairman

Sir Reginald Wilson has accepted the invitation of Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, to become chairman of the Simplification of International Trade Procedures (SITPRO) board, with immediate effect. He succeeds Lord Thorneycroft, the founder-chairman, who resigned in 1975 on his assumption of the chairmanship of the Conservative Party.

Until recently Sir Reginald was chairman of the Transport Development Group; he was chairman of the National Freight Corporation in 1969/70; before that he was chairman of the Transport Holding Co. He has just retired from the chairmanship of The Thomas Cook Group but is still chairman of a number of finance and business companies.

He was president of the Institute of Transport in 1957/58 and founder-chairman of the Centre for Physical Distribution Management, which was set up under the aegis of the British Institute of Management. Sir Reginald is a Scottish Chartered accountant and was a partner in Whinney Murray and Co. from 1937-72.

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Missions and Tours

Follow-up visit planned to western Canada

'There is no suggestion I could make to improve the excellent services provided on this mission,' said a member of a trade mission organised last year by the Birmingham Chamber of Industry and Commerce and the BOTB to western Canada. 'We intend to follow up this highly successful visit with a trip next year,' he continued.

A further mission to Canada west, based on Vancouver, Edmonton and Winnipeg, is being arranged by the Birmingham Chamber with the BOTB from 4-18 September. After completing the official itinerary members will be free to remain in the west, or move on to other areas of Canada – and indeed the USA – if they wish before returning to the UK. Qualifying participants will each receive a financial contribution of £225 under the BOTB outward mission scheme towards their expenses.

Recruitment is not confined to members of the Birmingham Chamber, and any firm wishing to have further details should contact: Mr. T. A. Jackson, Overseas Trade Secretary, Birmingham Chamber of Industry and Commerce, 75 Harborne Road, Birmingham B15 3DH.

Manchester mission to Saudi Arabia and the lower gulf

'This mission is representative of a cross section of the now very diverse industrial and commercial life of the city of Manchester and the outlying areas,' said Denis Arrandale, Secretary of a trade mission organised by the Manchester Chamber of Commerce and supported by the BOTB, which was due to leave on 30 January for a three-week visit to Saudi Arabia and the lower Gulf States. 'It is a good mixture with experienced people as well as many firms new to the Middle East' Mr. Arrandale continued, 'and I hope that it will demonstrate the wide scope of products and services we can offer these important and expanding markets.'

Diverse product range

Among the diverse range of products the 15-man mission will be promoting are swimwear, canned meat, primary teaching aids, pipes and pipelines equipment, patent medicines and batteries. The mission is being led by Donald Straw, chairman of the chamber's Near East section, who has been trading in the Middle East since 1936 and will be representing his own company, Donald Straw and Co. (Textiles) Ltd.

Jedda to Muscat

The mission will visit Jedda, Riyadh, Dhahran, Bahrain, Doha, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Ras-al-Khaimah and Muscat, returning to the UK on 23 February.

Sussex mission to Australia and New Zealand

A trade mission to Australia and New Zealand with representatives of 18 British firms has been organised by the Federation of Sussex Industries with backing from the BOTB. The mission, which leaves on 18 February, will visit Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney, and Auckland, during its month-long itinerary.

The mission members, who come from Yorkshire, the East Midlands, Kent, and Essex, as well as Sussex, will be consolidating contacts and looking for new business for a wide range of consumer and capital goods. Among these are chemical and electronic instruments, scientific glassware, machine tools, linens and tablecloths, confectionery, and aquatic equipment.

The mission has been arranged by the FSI following the experience of its first mission to Australia and New Zealand in July 1973, which was commercially successful for the members and enthusiastically received by businessmen in the host countries.

British components for French cars

From M. R. J. Guest, First Secretary, British Embassy, Paris: The French automobile industry has begun to show greater interest in the procurement of automotive components from Britain. The British content in French cars has been very low. French automobile firms have not been fully aware of the enormous potential of the British automotive component industry. Nor have they realised the many technological advantages that British automotive component manufacturers have over their competitors. There was an obvious need to draw this potential to their attention.

It was thus with some alacrity that the purchasing director of Renault cars accepted the British Embassy Paris' suggestion that we try and arrange a visit to the UK for him to obtain a wider appreciation of the capabilities of the British automotive component industry. M. Streit's visit took place from 11 to 17 January and was arranged by the European Components Service. M. Streit was accompanied at various times during the visit by three of his senior deputies (the Renault purchasing department is 750 strong).

Altogether, 19 firms were involved in the programme and M. Streit and his deputies visited the factories of 18 of them. There is no doubt that the visitors gained a favourable impression from what they saw and from the enthusiasm with which they were received. This initial visit has drawn the attention of many British automotive component manufacturers to Renaults interest. As a result M. Streit and his deputies are to pay a number of follow-up visits. The first – to more than a dozen companies – took place this week and included several companies that they had not already seen.

Three-week visit to Middle East

A trade mission representing 15 British companies and led by Mr. G. C. Mander of Mander, Raikes, and Marshall of Bristol, will leave for a three-week visit to the Middle East on 25 February. The firms, most of whom are based in the south-west of England are being supported by the BOTB and sponsored by the Bristol Chamber of Commerce, Industry, and Shipping.

The mission will be promoting a wide range of consumer and capital goods, including bedding, boating and shoes, agricultural and municipal engineering equipment, road construction plant, air compressors, and engineering consultancy services.

Exhibitions and Fairs

Düsseldorf boat show is platform for exports

From H. C. von Massenbach, British Consulate-General, Düsseldorf: The British exhibit of pleasure craft, equipment and accessories – the largest ever seen at Düsseldorf's international boat shows – clearly indicated the direction of the industry's current and future export drive.

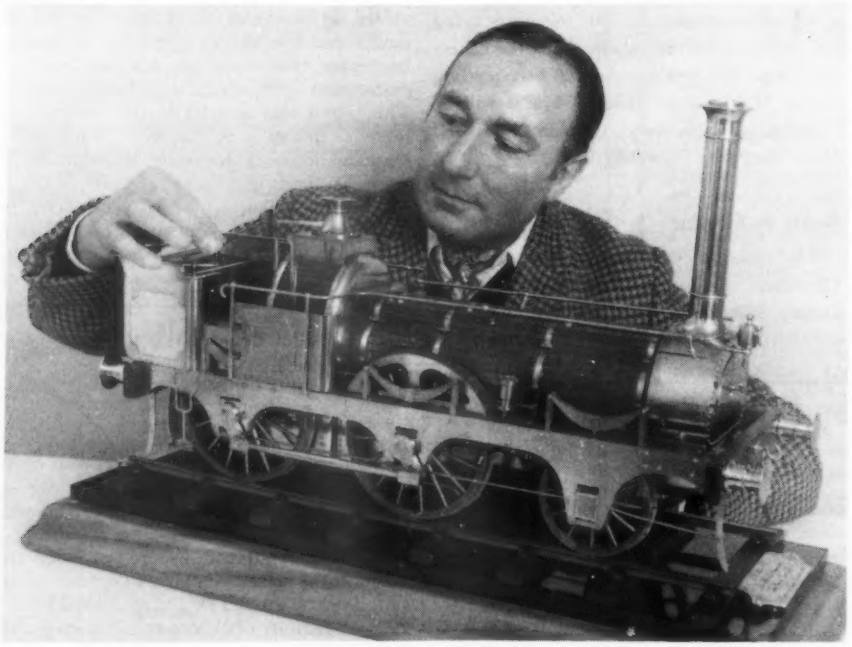
With the Federal Republic of Germany seen to be Europe's biggest growth market for water pleasure craft, the British boat-building industry once again effectively demonstrated its ability to further build on its established reputation in this market. At the same time it also successfully used this show as a platform to attract inquiries from all parts of Europe and the Middle East.

At Boat '76 which ran from 24 January-1 February, some 833 direct exhibitors and represented firms, plus some 24 authorities and organisations connected with the trade and industry occupied 77,000m² gross exhibition area or 41,699m² net, which was 15 per cent more than at last year's show. Although about 72 per cent of the direct exhibitors were German it was significant that 70 per cent of the boats on display were of foreign production, coming from as many as 26 countries. Despite the unwelcomed harsh winter weather which prevailed throughout the eight-day period, the show attracted a record number of visitors, some 162,000 as compared with 157,000 at last year's show.

Much press publicity was given to the official British exhibit sponsored by the Ship and Boat Builders National Federation which, under the joint venture scheme, occupied 2,500m² exhibition area, about 50 per cent more than that taken at the last show. The British exhibitors in the sponsored exhibit, with one independent direct exhibitor and the agents of several other British producers together presented a wide variety of British boats which once again did not fail to capture the interest of the trade and public. Over £600,000 worth of business was booked at the show by the official British exhibitors.

On the power boat side special interest was centred on the family weekend cruisers and luxury motor yachts. Despite some concern about manufacturers' recent price increases, over £500,000 worth of orders were booked in this sector alone and generally good follow-up business was expected. Somewhat disappointing was the business booked on the sailing boat side. Those showing the larger yachts and motor sailers were, however, hopeful of follow-up business, for it was widely accepted that in this sector firm orders were being placed less and less at the show itself.

With the German economy now showing signs of improvement there are already clear indications of the public's readiness to increase spending on leisure sports. Most exhibitors, including the British, were therefore confident of increased trading prospects in 1976.



This model of a steam locomotive designed by E. B. Wilson for the Great Exhibition of 1851, which took place in Hyde Park, London, was among the distinctive items displayed at the British Luxury Fair in Dubai between 29 January and 1 February. The fair, sponsored by the London Chamber of Commerce, exhibited luxury personal products and quality articles for the home. The model, one of a limited production, has been hand-made at the workshops of L. S. Angus in Glasgow, Scotland. It is 65cm long and the 2,000 individual items used in its construction are made of brass, copper and mahogany.

Frankfurt International Spring Fair 1976

Clocks, toys, kitchen and tableware are just a few of the modern well-designed products to be included on the Design Council stand at this year's Frankfurt International Spring Fair (22-26 February). Organised in association with the BOTB under its joint venture scheme, the Design Council is taking to Frankfurt a part of 10 manufacturers, each chosen for the high design standard of its products.

Among the products is an attractive new range of stoneware tableware being shown by Dunoon Ceramics. Entitled 'Iona', the range is available in natural stoneware with coloured glazed banding. The English farmhouse style of tableware is represented by Henry Watson's Potteries, in a brand new range they are launching entitled 'Sussex Redware'.

Agromasexpo – joint venture plans

In Budapest the 4th international exhibition and fair of agricultural and food industrial machines and instruments (Agromasexpo) will take place from 25 August to 1 September 1976.

This is an annual event covering all types of agricultural and food machinery.

The new Hungarian five-year plan stresses the importance of increased agricultural production, and good opportunities exist for British companies wishing to display and export their goods. The BOTB will be supporting a joint venture sponsored by the BAEC, and interested companies should, in the first instance, contact Mr. C. Crosthwaite Eyre at the British Agricultural Export Council, Agriculture House, 25 Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7NQ (tel. 01-245 9819).

The country desk in the Department's Fairs and Promotions Branch is Mark Dempsey, tel. 01-248 5757, ext. 7246.

Considerable change of mood in Japan

From E. J. Field, First Secretary (Commercial), British Embassy, Tokyo: Those British participants who returned to Tokyo for this year's Internepcon Japan found that the mood had changed considerably. The Japanese are now looking for a return to growth in the latter part of this year and already some industries have seen a considerable upsurge in demand. One of the leaders has been the electronics industry where sales of consumer products have been good. Component manufacturers have enjoyed a stronger demand, with production for the first 10 months of 1975 up 24 per cent. Prices have not followed suit, but nonetheless the general mood is one of greater optimism. Exhibitors reported a much more positive interest and the number of serious inquiries surprised nearly all participants.

The British group of 30 companies contained a number who have found Internepcon to be a useful market place for their products. Avdel, for instance, were taking part in their fifth consecutive Internepcon and rated it the best ever in terms of potential orders. Other companies, such as Procirc and Vickers Instruments, only entered the Japanese market through Internepcon last year. Now back for a second time, both companies were delighted at the start which has been made. According to Mr. Boullier, marketing director, interest in Vicker's research microscopes and automated edge setting modules was such that Japan could well become the company's second biggest export market after the United States this year.

Eight companies were taking their first steps into the Japanese market and by the end of the exhibition all were engaged in negotiations with potential agents. Highvol Connectors and the Ceramics Division of Smiths Industries were pleased at the amount of interest shown in their products despite the fact that competition in Japan is considerable. The novel machine for the continuous coating of electronic components exhibited by Jidenco Machines attracted a lot of attention.

Another company making a determined effort to develop a new market in Japan was the Industrial Laser Systems Division of BOC Ltd. The company had already exhibited their semi-automatic laser resistor trimmer at the British Export Marketing Centre's Laser and Electro-Optics Exhibition in December 1975. Internepcon offered an excellent opportunity to follow up this initial introduction.

Although the Japanese electronics market is highly competitive, British participants showed that there is a market for new and advanced products and that there are many gaps which are still to be filled by foreign suppliers. With an overall growth rate in the economy officially predicted at between 5 per cent and 6 per cent for the coming fiscal year, Japan must be one of the more promising markets at the moment.

Bucharest international trade fair, October 1976

If there is sufficient support from UK industry the BOTB is prepared to arrange official British participation at this event under 'British Pavilion Scheme' terms. The specialised grouping of this event is as follows: Outfit, equipment and installations for the mining industry; metals, equipment and installations for the metallurgical industry; machine-tools for metal processing; machines, equipment and accessories for welding; pumps, compressors, motors; machines, apparatuses, equipment and installations for the production, transport, distribution and control of electric power; machines, installations, equipment studies, designs and licences for telecommunications and the electrical engineering industry; apparatuses, equipment and installations for electronics and automation; installations, outfit and equipment for the oil and fuel industry; outfit, equipment and machines for the chemical, plastics and rubber industries.

Further information

Companies seeking further information should contact Arthur Reid, Fairs and Promotions Branch, British Overseas Trade Board, 26 Old Bailey, London EC4 (tel. 01-248 5757, ext. 604). Cut-off date for space applications is 5 March.

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Bootle, Merseyside L20 1DP
Tel: 051-922 4071
Telex: 62496

SOUTHAMPTON
Rooms 400/402,
South Western House,
Canute Road,
Southampton SO1 1FF
Tel: 0703 32461/4
Telex: 477091

Trade Information

Industrial incentives in Jamaica

The Port Authority of Jamaica is offering the following incentives to industrial and commercial enterprises who are prepared to set up operations in the Kingston Free Zone:

1 100 per cent tax holiday on profits for 10 years and total exemption from income tax on profit earnings from export sales
2 exemptions from import licensing, customs duty and quantitative restrictions
3 work permits to be granted free of charge for expatriate technical personnel employed where local recruitment has been unsuccessful.

Interested parties should write to the Chairman, The Port Authority of Jamaica, 40 Harbour Street, Kingston.

Inquiries: CRE tel. 01-215 5296.

Hints to business men booklets

A revised edition of the booklet on Kuwait has been published in the 'Hints to Business Men' series. British business men who intend visiting this country on export business can obtain copies of the booklet from Export Services and Promotions Division, Department of Trade, Room D 05, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU, tel. 01-248 5757 ext. 7146, or any Regional Office of the Departments of Trade and Industry.

Advertisements are accepted for all booklets in the series which covers over 100 countries. Inquiries about advertising should be addressed to Cheiron Press Ltd., 8/10 Parkway, London NW1 7AD, tel. 01-267 1285.

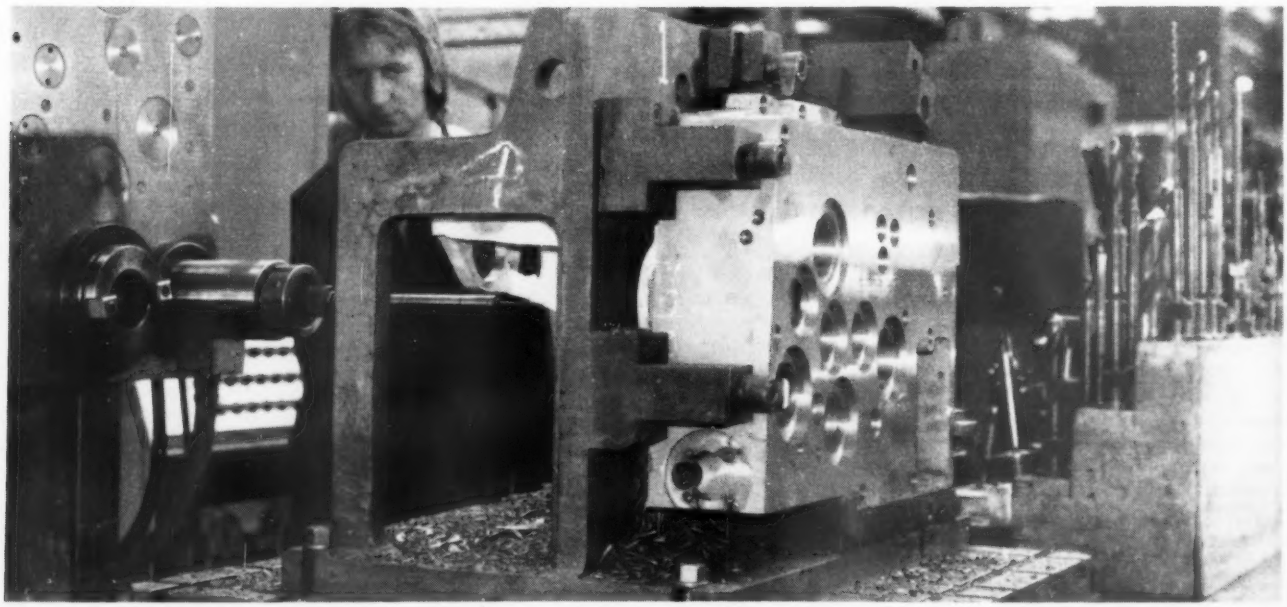
Further information

In many cases further information on the notices published on these pages is available to British exporters from the Department of Trade. The main branches concerned are: Commercial Relations and Exports (CRE) Divisions, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET (tel: direct dialling); and Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section (OTAR), Export Data Branch, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel: 01-248 5757). In each case, the relevant information source is indicated at the end of the notice by its initials (OTAR or CRE) and, in the case of OTAR, the telephone extension. In the Tariff and Trade Notices section countries are grouped by continents as far as possible; they are listed alphabetically on the contents page.

Application for temporary exemption from import duty

The Department of Trade is considering an application for the temporary exemption from import duty of the product listed below on the grounds that it is not made in this country or the Commonwealth or the supply available is not substantial having regard to the existing United Kingdom demand.

Representations are invited from manufacturers in this country or agents of Commonwealth manufacturers who con-



In the Birmingham factory of Cincinnati Milacron Ltd., the front control bracket for a type 2MK milling machine is finished on a numerically-controlled machining centre. The milling machine is part of a £7-million contract for 180 units placed in Britain by the Industrial Development and Renovation Organisation of Iran. The contract features a 10-year licensing agreement for the manufacture of milling machines in Iran, which will help to establish an Iranian machine tool industry. Also included is the export from Britain of advanced numerically-controlled machining centres for machining the 2MK castings and other components in Iran.

sider they are, or will be within a reasonable period, in a position to supply a substantial proportion of the United Kingdom demand for the product, or who are interested in its future production.

Temporary exemptions come into effect on the operative date of the Treasury Order in which the materials are specified and *will remain in operation until the date shown in column 4 below* or for such shorter period as may be justified.

Interested parties who wish to make representations should address them to General Division, Department of Trade, Kingsgate House, 66/74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ, preferably through a trade association, giving the respective reference shown below and stating whether their names may be passed to the applicants for temporary exemption.

Representations should be received by 27 February 1976.

Tariff heading	Proposed definition for tariff purposes	Applied for as	Exemption required until	Reference
15.12	Fats and oils wholly obtained from fish or marine mammals	Hardened fish oils	30 June 1977	T 15848

Anti-dumping investigation into single and double barrelled shotguns from USSR

The Department of Trade has accepted for full investigation an application under the Customs Duties (Dumping and Subsidies) Act 1969 against the alleged dumping of single and double barrelled shotguns from the USSR.

A statement of the applicant's case will be made available to any interested parties who give an undertaking to treat the information contained in the statement in confidence. Requests for the statement, together with an undertaking in these terms, should be sent in writing to General Division, Department of Trade, Room 128, Kingsgate House, 66/74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ.

Any representations which interested parties may wish to make in connection with this application should be submitted in writing not later than 27 February 1976. Such representations in summarised form and without attribution to the source may be passed to the applicants, for comment. Those making representations should stipulate any particular points which they do not wish to be disclosed.

Notices to Importers

Issued by the Department of Trade, Import Licensing Branch, Charles House, 375 Kensington High Street, London W14 8QH.

No. 1544: Imports of bananas from the Dollar Area

To offset expected shortfalls in supplies of fresh bananas to the United Kingdom from other sources, a further supplementary quota of 5,000 tonnes (4,921 long tons) has been established for imports from the Dollar Area.

In order to ensure continuity of imports, the Department of Trade's Import Licensing Branch will allocate the supplementary quota among existing licence holders, having regard to the use they have made of their existing allocations under the current quotas for 1975/76. Import licences will be issued to importers against their allocations only for those amounts for which they can produce evidence of a firm contract with the overseas supplier. Licences issued under these arrangements will not be valid after 30 September 1976.

The Dollar Area, as defined in the Open General Import Licence, means Bolivia, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Republic of Honduras, Liberia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, the Philippines, the United States of America and Venezuela.

Inquiries: ILB, tel: 01-603 4644, ext. 281.

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Tariff and Trade Notices

Iceland

Import controls: The Icelandic Press reports that import surveillance licensing has been imposed on imports of the following goods:

BN 19.07	Bread, ships' biscuits and other ordinary bakers' wares, not containing added sugar, honey, eggs, fat, cheese or fruit
19.08	Pastry, biscuits, cakes and other fine bakers' wares, whether or not containing cocoa in any proportion

Confirmation is being sought from Reykjavik. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 458/461.

Finland

Price control. The Finnish Government has passed a new Price Control Bill, due to take effect in mid-February. Prices will be frozen at their 21 January levels; any prices which were increased after that date will be reduced accordingly when the freeze is implemented.

This freeze will last for five months, after which increased price controls will be introduced. No further details are available. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 458/461.

Import deposits. The Finnish authorities have decided on the gradual elimination of the present Import Deposit Scheme. The elimination will start on 15 February 1976: from that date all goods hitherto subject to a deposit at the 5 per cent rate will be exempted from the Scheme. The timetable for eliminating the other Deposit rates is awaited. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 458/461.

Luxembourg

Foodstuffs regulations. The Luxembourg Memorial A82 of 11 December 1975 published a decree dated 29 November 1975 which implements EEC Directive 73/437/EEC of 11 December 1973 concerning certain sugars intended for human consumption. The decree entered into force on 11 December 1975. Copies of the decree (in French) are available. Inquiries OTAR ext. 288/466/467.

Further information

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Netherlands

Gas rubber tubing and glassware decrees. Decrees dated 8 December 1975 (*Staatsblads* 772 and 773), published on 27 January 1976, amend respectively the Gas Rubber Tubing Decree and the Glassware Decree. Copies of the amending decrees (in Dutch) are available. It is not proposed to prepare an English translation.

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 288/466/467.

Spain

Opening of global quotas. The Spanish *State Gazette*, 1 January 1976, announced details of the Spanish global quotas for 1976. In the *State Gazette*, 30 January, the Spanish authorities invited applications from Spanish importers, merchants and industrialists against the

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following quotas for the first half of 1976. Applications must be presented within one month from 30 January.

Quota no.	Tariff no.	Goods	Value (pesetas)
26	34.02.B 34.03.B ex 38.07 ex 38.08 38.19.F.2 ex 38.19.G 38.19.H 38.19.J ex 38.19.K	Surface-active preparations and other chemical products	109,513,412
27	39.01.A	Phenoplast and furan resins	48,400,000
28	39.01.B	Aminoplasts	32,670,000
29	39.01.C ex 39.01.K	Other condensation, polycondensation and polyaddition products	32,153,832
30	39.02.C	Styrene and derivative products (polymerisation)	16,637,500
31	39.02.E	PVC	32,670,000
32	39.02.A.2 39.02.G.2 39.02.G.3 39.02.L.2 ex 39.02.M.1 ex 39.02.M.2 39.02.N ex 39.03.A	Other polymerisation and copolymerisation products	58,954,192
33	39.07.B	Manufactures of plastic products	48,400,000
34	44.15 44.16 44.18 48.09	Non-liberalised wood manufactures	14,468,558
35	50.09 50.10	Silk fabrics	33,275,000

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 462/471/472/473.

Opening of global quotas. The Spanish global quotas for 1976 were published in *Trade and Industry*, 30 January, pages 318/19. The Spanish authorities have now invited applications from Spanish importers, merchants and industrialists against the following quotas for the first half of this year. Applications must be presented within one month from 31 January.

Quota no.	Tariff no.	Goods	Value (pesetas)
36	55.05 55.06 57.06 57.07.C	Cotton yarns and other yarns	62,871,748
37	55.07 55.08 55.09 57.10 ex 57.11	Fabrics of various fibres	41,250,000
38	58.01 58.02 58.03	Carpets and rugs	7,865,000
39	58.04.E 58.08 58.09 60.01.C	Tulle, lace, velvet and knitted fabrics	18,634,000
40	ex 59.03.A 59.07 59.08 ex 59.11 ex 59.12 ex 59.13 60.06.A.1 60.06.B.1	Special fabrics	16,637,500
41	58.05.D 58.06 58.07.A.1 58.07.B.1 58.07.C.1 58.07.D.1 59.01 59.02.C ex 59.04.B ex 59.05.C ex 59.06 ex 59.14 ex 59.15	Other textile manufactures	13,915,000
42	ex 60.02 60.03.A.2 60.03.B.2 60.03.C.1 60.04.C 60.05.C	Knitted goods	1,996,500
43	61.01.A ex 61.01.D ex 61.01.E 61.02.A ex 61.02.D ex 61.02.E	Outer garments	10,450,000
44	61.03.A ex 61.03.D 61.04.A ex 61.04.D	Under garments	1,815,000
45	61.05 61.07 61.09 61.10.A ex 61.10.D 61.11.A	Other garments and fabric accessories	5,142,500
46	62.01.B.1 62.02.A 62.03 ex 62.04 ex 62.05.B	Other made-up textile articles	5,324,000
47	69.11.B 69.12.B 69.13 69.14	Manufactures of ceramic articles	19,965,000

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 462/471/472/473.

Yugoslavia

Tariff changes. According to a summary translation of Yugoslav *Official Gazette* No. 61, 30 December 1975, wide-ranging changes have been made in the Yugoslav customs tariff.

A large number of imports are now subject to increased duties. The special equalisation tax has been increased from 3 per cent to 5 per cent for most goods. The import surcharge will continue but new rates between the original 5 per cent and 10 per cent limits now apply to specific items for certain industries. A global foreign exchange quota has been established from 1 January 1976 for imports of 'reproduction materials and spare parts for current maintenance' for the first half of 1976, importers being entitled to 40 per cent of the foreign exchange allocated in 1975. Many details of the tariff changes are subject to clarification. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 288/466/467.

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Israel

Restrictions on the use of calorie-free sweeteners. The Israeli authorities have issued an order stating that no food producer shall use a calorie-free sweetener, or a commodity including such a sweetener without a permit. This permit is issued by the Director of the Food Division at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, together with the Director of the Food Service at the Ministry of Health.

No further information is available. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 458/461.

Import duty amendments. The Israeli authorities have issued amendments to the rate of import duty affecting the following goods (the rates given are for UK goods):

BN tariff no.	Description of goods	Rate of import duty
ex 09.01	Ground coffee:	
	Released before 1.4.76	IL 2.00/kg + 10%
	Other	IL 2.80/kg + 12.5%
ex 09.02	Tea bags:	
	Released before 1.4.76	IL 2.80/kg (i.i.c.)
	Other	IL 4.20/kg + 20% (i.i.c.)
ex 09.02	Tea in packages up to 1kg:	
	Released before 1.4.76	IL 2.80/kg + 20% (i.i.c.)
	Other	IL 4.20/kg + 20% (i.i.c.)
ex 15.15	Lac waxes	IL 2.20/kg + 12%
ex 21.02	Coffee extracts, essences or concentrates, preparations with a basis of coffee extract, essences or concentrates:	
	Released before 1.4.76	IL 4.00/kg + 8.5%
	Other	IL 4.60/kg + 10%
ex 44.15	Plywood	20% but not less than IL 400.00/m³
ex 50.09	Woven fabrics of silk or of waste silk other than noil, containing wool or other animal hair in any percentage	IL 1.50/m² + 20% but not less than IL 5.70/m²
ex 59.04	Twine, cordage, ropes and cables, plaited or not made of 100% synthetic material	15% but not less than IL 0.50/kg
ex 62.05	Ornamental textile articles and textile fancy goods other than imitation jewellery	27.5%
69.11	Tableware and other articles of a kind commonly used for domestic or toilet purposes, of porcelain or china (including biscuit porcelain and parian)	50%
ex 73.20	Cast fittings of iron or steel weighing not more than 3.5kg	17.5% but not less than 1.60/kg
76.13	Wire gauze, yarn, net, mesh, strengthening materials and similar materials of aluminium wire	12.5% but not less than 1.50/m²
ex 84.22	Jacks of a kind used in garages	20%

The following additional subdivisions have now been included under the residual heading (other) of the BN numbers listed below:

48.01	Paper and paperboard (including cellulose wadding), machine-made, in rolls or sheets:	
9900	Other	
9930	Weighing not less than 200g/m², excluding duplex	
9931	Released before 1.7.76	30%
9939	Other	45%
48.15	Other paper and paperboard, cut to size or shape	
9900	Other	
9920	Weighing not less than 200g/m², excluding duplex	
9921	Released before 1.7.76	30%
9929	Other	45%

Note: i.i.c. = including inner container.

No further information is available. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 458/461.

Ghana

Import licensing. A notice published in *Trade and Industry*, 16 January 1976, page 173, gave details of transitional arrangements for the use of import licences. The following Notice to Importers was published in the *Ghana Commercial and Industrial Bulletin*, 9 January 1976:

It is announced for the information of registered importers that all 1975 import licences will expire on 31 December 1975. No extensions will be made to such licences.

In very exceptional cases, however, the Commissioner for Trade and Tourism may, without prejudice, approve the issue of new licences to cover the goods. In such circumstances, there should be documentary evidence to prove that letters of credit have been established, or in the case of goods on collection, that the Bank of Ghana's approval has been given, prior to 31 December 1975 and also that at the time of the establishment of the letters of credit the particular importer was in possession of a valid import licence.

Importers are further informed that where there is documentary evidence that letters of credit have been established and the goods have been shipped by 31 December 1975, the Commissioner for Trade and Tourism may allow such goods, on arrival to be cleared from the ports with 1975 licences.

Where letters of credit have been established and the foreign suppliers can ship the goods by 31 March 1976 the Ministry of Trade shall on application issue 1976 licences to importers to enable them take delivery of the goods on arrival. Such issues would be deducted from importers allocation for 1976.

Importers are reminded that it is an offence punishable by law to bring goods into the country without valid import licences.

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 473/472/471/462.

Zambia

Budget. The Zambian Minister of Finance presented his budget to Parliament on 30 January 1976, and announced the following measures, among others:

Changes in tax, customs duties and licensing fees. These include increases on spirits, vehicles, personal income tax, selective employment tax, imported textiles, beer, petrol and sugar.

Changes in subsidies. Subsidies on maize, fertiliser and 'other commodities' are reduced.

Import licensing. This is to remain, although it is regarded as a temporary measure which would be removed as soon as there were signs of improvement in the economy.

No other information is available at present, but further details are expected shortly. Inquiries: CRE tel. 01-215 5794.

South Africa

Pyrolytic self-cleaning ovens and oven glass windows. Notice No. 2403 published in the *Government Gazette* of 19 December 1975 gives notification that the Minister of Economic Affairs intends to amend the compulsory standard specifications for certain items of electrical equipment by introducing requirements in respect of pyrolytic self-cleaning ovens and the temperature of the outer surface of oven glass windows. Objections to these proposed amendments should reach the Director General, South Africa Bureau of Standards, Private Bag X191, Pretoria by 20 February 1976. Inquiries: CRE tel. 01-215 5274.

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Canada

Textile and Clothing Board review. The Canadian Textile and Clothing Board to undertake a review of the production, importation and usage of broadwoven fabrics of nylon and of polyester filament in Canada, prior to making recommendations to the Canadian Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce concerning the maintenance, modification or removal of special measures of protection.

Interested parties should submit 10 copies of views or information by 15 March 1976 to:

The Secretary
Textile and Clothing Board
Room 716
Journal North Building
300 Slater Street
Ottawa K1A OH5.

Further information is available. Inquiries: CRE tel. 01-215 5397.

United States

Textiles: care labelling. The US *Federal Register*, 26 January 1976, published details of a proposed revision of the care labelling of textile products and leather apparel. Written comments (five copies) by 26 April 1976 to Federal Trade Commission, Washington DC 20580. A copy of the text is available to British exporters. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 456/457/7312.

Bahamas

Documentation. Although Bahamas abolished the Commonwealth Preferential Duty Rate on 26 November 1975, the Customs authorities continue to require that the specified form of invoice and combined certificate of origin and value should accompany goods imported from the UK. A handout is available on request.

Stamp duty. The local stamp duty levied on goods imported into Bahamas was raised to 1 per cent with effect from 1 January 1976.

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 7312/456/457.

Trinidad and Tobago

Purchase tax amendments. By GN No. 10 of 1976, the Trinidad and Tobago authorities have amended certain rates of purchase tax levied on the duty-paid value of some imported goods. The changes include a rate of 45c per oz now payable on cigars, cheroots and snuff. The rate of tax levied on television receivers and associated items has been increased to 30 per cent, whilst the rate on parts for certain domestic electrical appliances has been reduced. No purchase tax is now payable on rubber footwear.

Further details are available on request. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 7312/456/457.

Registered trade marks

The lists of tariff, customs and import regulation changes in overseas countries published in this section of *Trade and Industry* sometimes contain words which are registered trade marks in the United Kingdom. So far as is practicable, all lists of goods are checked before publication from this point of view. Items which fall into this category are preceded by the letters rtm. Readers should note that this prefix signifies that the words are registered as trade marks in the United Kingdom but that in the present context are assumed to refer generally to products of the descriptions stated in brackets. While every attempt will be made to ensure that the scrutiny is complete, the lists may contain other words which are registered as trade marks in the United Kingdom or in other countries but which it has not been possible to identify.

St. Lucia

Duty exemptions. By SRO No. 50 of 1975, the St. Lucia authorities have introduced a series of duty exemptions on certain raw materials, chemicals, other ingredients and supplies and semi-manufactured and manufactured goods. To qualify for exemption, these items must be imported for specified industrial and agricultural purposes. The exemptions will be operative until 31 December 1980. A copy of the Resolution is available on request.

Consumption tax. By SRO No. 51 of 1975, the St. Lucia authorities alter the rates of consumption tax levied on the cif value of the following goods to the rates shown below:

BTN item no.	Description of goods	Rate of tax
22.03.20	Stout and porter	$1.60 per l. gal.
22.09.10	Rum in bottle and not overproof	
	A. Raw, unrefined and unmatured	$3.60 per l. gal.
	B. Other	$14.50 per l. gal.
27.10.10	Motor gasolene	42c per gal.
27.10.30	Other motor spirits	42c per gal.
27.10.40	Power kerosene and (vaporising oil or white spirits)	13c per gal.
27.10.50	Illuminating kerosene	10c per gal.

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 7312/456/457.

Guyana

Abolition of Commonwealth Preference. Guyana implemented the single-tier Common External Tariff with effect from 1 February 1976. Commonwealth Preferences have therefore been abolished. It is understood that the old non-preferential rate has been adopted in its entirety.

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 7312/456/457).

Uruguay

Import duty exemptions. Decree 953/975 revokes Decree 349/975 which detailed duty exemptions for pesticides. Decree 953 states that

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CRE Commercial Relations and Exports Divisions
Department of Trade
1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET
Tel. Direct dialling (see end of each notice)

OTAR Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section
Export Data Branch
Export Services and Promotions Division
Department of Trade
Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU
Tel. 01-248 5757 (extension at end of each notice)

products imported for fighting agricultural plagues (and raw materials for the manufacture of such products) will be exempt from the payment of customs and additional duties, import taxes and port dues until 31 December 1976. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 474/476.

Exemptions for various industries. Machines and equipment imported by the industries listed below are exempted from the payment of surcharges and import taxes and dues.

The leather shoe industry
The textile and wool industries
The leather clothing and fancy goods industry
The granite and marble industry
The tanning industry

No further information is available at present. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 474/476.

18 per cent additional import tax. Decree 1,001/975 of 29 December 1975 extends the concessions previously granted by Decree 1,018/974 (see *Trade and Industry* of 20 and 28 February 1975) and extended by Decree 513/975 until 31 December 1975 (see *Trade and Industry* of 22 August 1975). The list of goods affected by these concessions remains the same. These concessions last until 30 June 1976.
Inquiries: OTAR ext. 474/476.

Chile

Duty amendment. Chilean Ministry of Finance Decree No. 27 published in the *Diario Oficial* (Government Gazette) on 26 January amends the rates of duty for the following items:

Tariff no.	Motor vehicles	New *ad valorem* rate
87.02.01.00 (01)	Public service type passenger vehicles (taxis)	115%
87.02.01.00 (99)	Others	115%

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 474/476.

Brazil

Butyl orthophthalate: reference price. Brazil's Customs Policy Council Resolution 2,627, published in the *Diario Oficial*, 28 November 1975, established a reference price of US$1,170.00 on butyl orthophthalate, of tariff heading 29.15.01.02. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 476/474.

Ethylbenzene: duty exemption. Brazil's Customs Policy Council Resolution 2,609, published in the *Diario Oficial*, 20 November 1975, exempted from duty a quota of 10,000 tonnes of ethylbenzene, under tariff heading 29.01.35.00. The concession shall be valid for a period of six months, lapsing on 20 May 1976. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 476/474.

Manufactured tobacco: additional specific import duty. Brazil's Ministerio da Fazenda Portaria no. 430, published in the *Diario Oficial*, 24 November 1975, made manufactured tobaccos subject to the following additional specific duties:

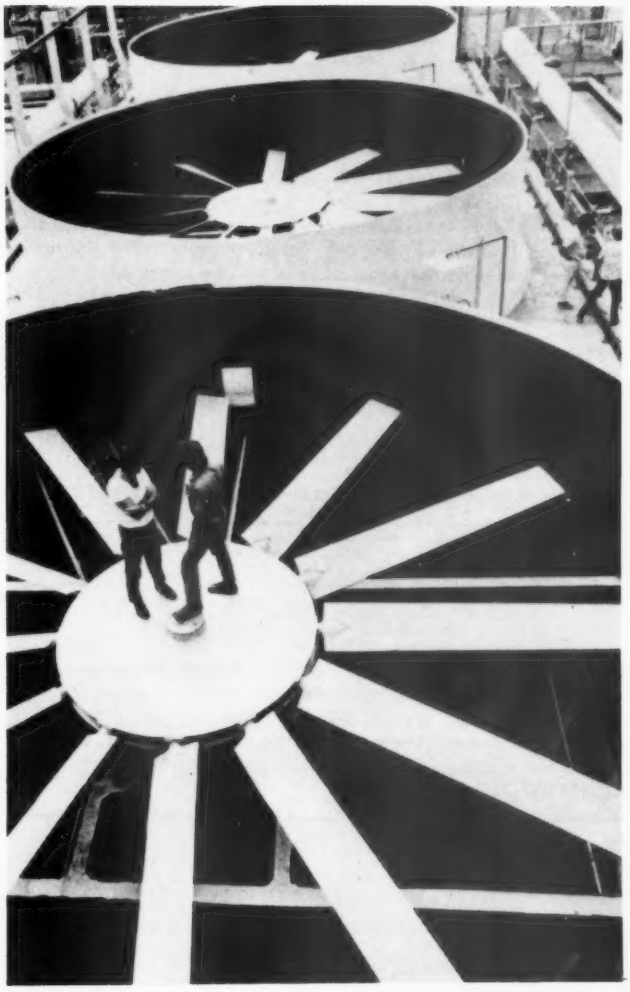
Tariff no.	Goods	Additional specific duties
24.02.01.00	Cigars	US $1.03 each
24.02.02.00	Cigarettes	US $0.81 per packet of 20
24.02.03.00	Cheroots	US $0.54 each
24.02.04.00	Chopped, shredded or in powder form	US $16.22 per kilo
24.02.05.00	In twists and rolls	US $16.22 per kilo
24.02.99.00	Other	US $16.22 per kilo

There is no further information available at present. Inquiries: OTAR ext. 476/474.

Manufactured goods tax on imports by Telebras. Brazil's decree law 1,425, published in the *Diario Oficial*, 4 November 1975, restored the normal level of manufactured goods tax on imports of goods by Telecommunicacoes Brasileiras SA (TELEBRAS) for use in their telecommunications work, until 31 December 1979. The tariff headings affected are the following:

39.02.00.00	39.07.11.00	68.11.02.00	68.12.01.02	69.06.00.00	73.21.07.00
74.01.00.00	74.03.00.00	74.04.00.00	76.02.00.00	78.01.00.00	84.12.00.00
84.15.00.00	84.53.00.00	85.01.00.00	85.04.00.00	85.13.00.00	85.15.03.00
85.15.09.00	85.19.00.00	85.20.00.00	85.21.00.00	85.23.00.00	87.02.00.00
87.03.00.00	87.05.00.00	87.06.00.00	90.28.12.00	91.05.05.00	

Inquiries: OTAR ext. 476/474.



These cooling tower fans, designed and built by Edgar Allen Aerex Ltd., Vulcan Road, Sheffield, are installed at the new Presidente Bernardas oil refinery at Cubatao in Brazil. The 30ft-diameter fans are in a high-capacity crossflow cooling tower, also of British design, which has been constructed for the Brazilian petrochemical company, Petrobras. The Brazilian order is for eight fans, each of which is capable of delivering 1.5 million cu ft of air a minute. The total water throughput of the cooling tower is 4.75 million gallons an hour.

Statistics

The economy: selected indicators

Series expressed as index numbers and seasonally adjusted except where shown otherwise

	Gross domestic product (average estimate)	Consumers' expenditure	Fixed capital expenditure: Total	Fixed capital expenditure: of which: Manufacturing industry	Fixed capital expenditure: of which: Distributive and service industries	Changes in stocks: Total	Changes in stocks: of which: Manufacturing industry	Changes in stocks: of which: Wholesalers	Changes in stocks: of which: Retailers	Balance of payments: Current balance	Balance of payments: Visible balance	Balance of payments: Invisible balance
	at 1970 prices		at 1970 prices			at 1970 prices				at current prices		
Base of index	1970	1970	1970	1970	1970							
£m in base year		31,472	9,380	2,130	2,090							
Series in						£ million				£ million		
1970	100	100	100	100	100	450	325	68	−30	735	−12	747
1971	102	103	102	93	104	70	−148	52	−10	1,048	282	766
1972	104	109	104	82	117	−5	−175	48	−11	128	−690	818
1973	110	114	107	88	125	960	396	102	334	−835	−2,295	1,460
1974	110	114	105	98	113	553	666	81	−68	−3,668	−5,234	1,566
1975										−1,687	−3,211	1,524
1973 1st qtr.	110	115	109	86	130	353	166	37	51	−125	−329	204
2nd qtr.	109	113	104	83	118	274	88	3	185	−63	−388	325
3rd qtr.	110	115	107	92	120	155	46	29	47	−217	−583	366
4th qtr	109	115	107	89	132	178	96	32	51	−430	−995	565
1974 1st qtr	106	113	108	97	112	−174	−31	18	−59	−845	−1,272	427
2nd qtr.	110	112	100	96	110	274	191	43	27	−948	−1,336	388
3rd qtr.	112	114	103	97	119	359	368	3	−14	−823	−1,199	376
4th qtr.	111	115	107	101	113	94	139	17	−22	−1,052	−1,427	375
1975 1st qtr.	110	116	105	93	102	−171	−4	−31	−57	−425	−860	435
2nd qtr.	107	114	103	87	100	−288	−112	−54	−52	−337	−678	341
3rd qtr	107	112	107	82	102	−157	−211	−25	60	−577	−965	388
4th qtr.										−348	−708	360 **
% change last 2 qtrs. on prev. 2 qtrs.	−3.0	−2.2	−1.2	−13.3	−6.4							
on a year earlier	−3.6	−0.3	+3.5	−12.7	−11.7							

	Industrial production: Total all industries	Industrial production: Total manufacturing industries	Personal expenditure: Retail sales	Personal expenditure: Cars: new registrations	Prices and costs (NOT seasonally adjusted): Retail prices	Retail prices: % increase on a year earlier	Wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry: basic materials and fuel used	Wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry: manufactured products: home sales*	Basic hourly wage rates of manual workers (all industries and services)	Labour (UK): Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students: mid-month count	Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students: % of total employees	Unfilled vacancies for adults: mid-month count	Trade: Exports	Trade: Imports
				monthly averages									On a balance of payments basis	
Base of index	1970	1970	1971		Jan. 1974		1970	1970	July 1972					
£m in base year			15,895											
Series in				thousands						thousands		thousands	£ million at current prices	
1971	100.5	99.7	100.0	108.5	153.4†	9.4	104.6	109.0	88.9	775.8	3.4	130.9	8,810	8,528
1972	102.6	102.4	105.8	138.6	164.3†	7.1	109.2	114.8	101.4	855.0	3.7	147.3	9,140	9,830
1973	110.3	110.9	110.7	137.3	179.4†	9.2	144.5	123.2	115.6	611.0	2.6	307.0	11,771	14,066
1974	106.3	107.8	109.9	102.7	108.5	16.0	215.3	152.0	138.7	600.3ø	2.6ø	302.7ø	15,886	21,120
1975			107.9	97.3	134.8	24.2	235.3 p	188.7 p	179.7 p	929.3	4.0	148.2ø	18,783p	21,994 p
1974 1st qtr.	104.4	106.5	109.6	103	101.4	12.9	212.5	138.3	125.0	572.9	2.5	288.6	3,490	4,762
2nd qtr.	107.9	109.4	107.8	104	107.5	15.8	213.7	148.9	132.3	579.4	2.5	313.0	3,996	5,332
3rd qtr.	108.3	109.6	111.2	109	110.2	17.0	212.9	156.1	144.0	621.2	2.7	310.1	4,231	5,430
4th qtr.	104.8	105.7	111.3	96	115.1	18.2	222.1	164.9	153.5	..	..	..	4,169	5,596
1975 1st qtr.	104 8	106.1	111.3	108	122.0	20.3	220.9	176.0	163.6	733.3	3.2	..	4,534	5,395
2nd qtr.	100.2	100.4	108.9	94	133.6	24.3	225.6	186.3	176.3	849.7	3.7	159 8	4,464	5,142
3rd qtr.	100 0	100.1	105.5	103	139.4	26.6	239.3	193.4	185.4	1008.5	4.3	135.2	4,642	5,607
4th qtr.			105.8	85	144.2	25.3	255.4 p	199.1 p	193.6 p	1125.6	4.8	119.4 p	5,143 p	5,851 p
1975 Jan.	105.5	107.7	112.8	117	119.9	19.9	222.1	173.0	159.8	709.0 e	3.0 e		1,510	1,926
Feb.	105.2	106.9	111.6	109	121.9	19.9	218.8	175.9	162.0	736.7	3.2	196.3	1,479	1,815
Mar.	103.6	103.8	109.5	98	124.3	21.2	221.9	179.2	169.0	754.1	3.2	189.7	1,545	1,654
Apr.	101.5	101.7	120.0	95	129.1	21 7	222.9	182.5	170.1	794.2	3.4	176.5	1,366	1,725
May	99.4	99.4	103.7	95	134.5	25.0	226.2	187.3	176.4	853.5	3.7	158.6	1,613	1,689
June	99.7	100.0	104.1	91	137.1	26 1	227.7	189.0	182.5	901.4	3.9	144.4	1,484	1,728
July	100.6	100.9	105.4	91	138.5	26.3	233.2	191.7	184.7	976.5	4.2	131 6	1,564	1,926
Aug.	98.8	98.9	104.8	98	139.3	26.9	241.4	193.5	185.5	1008.8	4.3	136.7	1,492	1,875
Sept.	100.5	100.5	106.1	120	140.5	26.6	243.2	194.9	185.9	1040.1	4.5	137.4	1,586	1,806
Oct.	101.7	101.5	104.8	85	142.5	25.9	251.7 p	197.0	187.3	1088.5	4.7	126.2	1,739	1,961
Nov.	101.8	101.5	105.2	81	144.2	25.2	256.2 p	198.9	195.4	1125.3	4.8	117.3	1,637	1,924
Dec.			107.0	87	146.0	24.9	258.4 p	201.5 p	198.0 p	1163.2	5.0	114.8	1,767 p	1,966 p
1976 Jan.				118 p			260.4 p	204.9 p		1205.5 p	5.2	109.2		
% change latest 3 months on prev. 3 months	+1.6	+1.2	+0.3	−5.9	+3.4		+5.3	+3.4	+4.4	+11.4		−14.7	+11	+4½
on a year earlier	−4.6	−5.5	−5.0	−5.4	+25.3		+15.9	+19.8	+26.1	..		..	+23	+4½

p Provisional * After April 1973, affected by changes due to VAT † Base of index Jan. 1962 = 100 .. not available
ø Average of 11 months e Figure is estimate ** Figure is projection

Official reserves in January

The UK official reserves rose by $1,356 million during January, following accruals of foreign currency borrowing by the public sector under the exchange cover scheme of $167 million (net) and the drawing on the IMF oil facility of $1,174 million. At the end of January they stood at $6,785 million.

'Economic Progress Report' for February

The leading article in the Treasury's *Economic Progress Report* for February analyses recent trends in the light of the much-discussed problem of the relative decline of British industry. The new industrial strategy is the subject of another feature.

The charts illustrate the continuing upward trend in manufacturing output by volume – but also the shift of employment out of manufacturing, accompanied by a rise in the number of employees in service industries and the public sector. Further graphs compare Britain's records in investment and productivity with those of other countries, illustrate the relationships between capital stock in manufacturing and the labour force and show how the UK's share of world export markets for manufactured goods has declined while imports of manufactured goods have made increasing inroads on our domestic market. The last two graphs show that the profitability of the industrial sector has been in long-term decline.

The Treasury's monthly economic assessment is also published. Recent evidence to support the view that the turning point of the recession has now been reached includes the rise in industrial production in the fourth quarter of 1975 and the fact that businessmen are now reporting to CBI the first increases in new orders since 1974. Unemployment is still rising and investment in manufacturing falling – but, say the Treasury, these are both indicators which normally respond late to a change in the general level of activity.

A special section of the Assessment looks at the use of cars, and the pattern of motoring, since the drastic rise in oil prices in 1973. There has been little change in the number of cars licensed, but registrations of new cars in 1975 were nearly half-a-million fewer than two years earlier. But, says the article, the policy of maintaining current motoring while deferring the purchase of new cars cannot last long: in the shorter term a significant increase in real expenditure on maintaining the ageing car stock will be necessary to keep car ownership at its present level and in the longer run replacement purchases will have to be made on an increasing scale if the car stock is not to dwindle.

The further measures to help the saving or creation of jobs, announced by the Chancellor on 17 December, are summarised. The Chancellor has indicated the likelihood of additional measures being taken this month.

Economic Progress Report, prepared by the Treasury Information Division, is published every month. It contains articles on economic subjects, analysing or giving background to Government economic policy, together with the Treasury's assessment of the economic situation and a table and charts of economic indicators. Copies are available from Circulation Section (H), Central Office of Information, Hercules Road, London SE1 7DU.

Earnings and hours of manual workers in October

Average weekly earnings of full-time manual men in October 1975 in the industries and services covered by the Department of Employment's annual October enquiry were £59.58. This represented an increase of £10.95, 22.5 per cent, over October 1974. For full-time manual women, average earnings were £34.18, an increase of £7.17, or 26.5 per cent, over the year.

Average hours worked by the men were 43.6, compared with 45.1 a year before and 45.6 in October 1973. Women worked an average of 37.0 hours, compared with 37.4 and 37.7 in October 1974 and 1973 respectively.

These are some of the provisional results of the Department's October 1975 inquiry, now available. The final figures with full details will be published in the next edition of the *Department of Employment Gazette**. Unlike the April New Earnings Survey and the monthly earning inquiry, this inquiry covers manual workers only. It relates to all manufacturing industries and some of the main non-manufacturing industries and services in the UK.

The other principal figures relate to manual workers in the manufacturing industries only. For men, average weekly earnings were £59.74, with average hours of 42.7; for women, earnings were £34.21 and hours 36.8.

Earnings figures are inclusive of bonuses, overtime etc., and before deduction of income tax or insurance contributions.

Details of average weekly earnings, hours worked, and hourly earnings for full-time men and women, part-time women, and youths and girls in all industries covered and in manufacturing only are given in the attached table.

* Department of Employment Gazette, February 1976, HMSO price 90p.

Symbols used in all statistical tables

.. not available	r revised
— nil or less than half	* five week period
the final digit shown	⁎ fifty-three week
p provisional	period

New companies registered

Below are details of new companies registered in Great Britain during December 1975 showing nominal capital. The figures are exclusive of unlimited companies and companies limited by guarantee.

Nominal capital	Total	Public companies	Private companies
Not exceeding £100	2,112	—	2,112
Over £100 but under £1,000	59	—	59
£1,000 but under £10,000	843	—	843
£10,000 but under £50,000	318	—	318
£50,000 but under £100,000	52	—	52
£100,000 but under £1,000,000	63	—	63
£1,000,000 and over	3	—	3
Total number	3,450	—	3,450
	£ thous.	£ thous.	£ thous.
Total amount of nominal capital	28,881	—	27,881

Companies registered in Great Britain in 1974 and 1975

	1974		1975	
	Number	Nominal capital £ thous.	Number	Nominal capital £ thous.
January	4,758	27,824	3,648	18,631
February	2,870	81,582	3,442	22,886
March	3,393	21,763	3,478	22,419
April	3,679	50,557	4,944	24,352
May	3,878	36,111	4,245	42,314
June	3,329	29,037	3,465	20,856
July	3,730	32,961	3,752	26,703
August	3,274	37,882	3,267	47,668
September	3,214	36,037	3,781	32,241
October	3,481	25,421	3,879	25,224
November	3,115	36,422	3,739	35,028
December	3,039	21,298	3,450	27,881
Total	41,760	436,835	45,090	346,203

Provisional estimates of vehicle production and new registrations in January

Tables 1 and 2 show United Kingdom vehicle production as estimated from provisional returns supplied by the major manufacturers. Car production in the four weeks ending 24 January was 98,000 units, a weekly rate of 24,500 which was 22 per cent below the level of output in January 1975. Commercial vehicle output of 27,300 units (6,825 per week) was 21 per cent below the level of production in January 1975.

In seasonally adjusted terms, January car output of 103,000 units was 3 per cent below the average monthly output in 1975. Production of commercial vehicles, at 31,500 units, was 1 per cent below the average monthly output last year.

Table 3 shows provisional estimates of new car registrations. Seasonally adjusted, new car registrations in Great Britain in January are provisionally estimated at 118,000. This was 40 per cent higher than the average monthly level during the last quarter of 1975 but for the period November to January the average monthly level of registrations fell by 6 per cent compared with the preceding three months.

TABLE 1 Estimated UK production in January 1976

Thousands

	Cars		Commercial vehicles	
	Month	Weekly average	Month	Weekly average
Estimated output:				
1976 (4 weeks ended 24.1.76)	98.0	24.5	27.3	6.8
1975 (4 weeks ended 25.1.75)	125.6	31.4	34.4	8.6
Percentage change		−22		−21

TABLE 2 UK vehicle production: monthly averages (seasonally adjusted)

Thousands

	1974	1975						1976	Average of		
	4th qtr.	1st qtr.	2nd qtr.	3rd qtr.	4th qtr.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Aug.-Oct. 1975	Nov. 1975-Jan. 1976	% change
Cars	130	117	88	112	105	112	110	103	103	108	+5
Commercial vehicles	34.6	35.4	30.6	31.7	29.3	27.9	30.7	31.5	30.7	30.0	−2

TABLE 3 New car registrations

Thousands

	1974	1975						1976	Average of		
	4th qtr.	1st qtr.	2nd qtr.	3rd qtr.	4th qtr.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Aug.-Oct. 1975	Nov. 1975-Jan. 1976	% change
Recorded	82	116	96	108	69	76	51	130			
Seasonally adjusted	97	108	93	103	84	81	87	118	101	95	−6

Wholesale price indices in January

Output prices

The provisional price index for the output of manufactured products rose by 1¾ per cent in January to 204.9 (1970 = 100).

January's rise of 1¾ per cent in the provisional price index for manufactured goods other than food, drink and tobacco reflected the normal annual pattern of price changes. Most sectors of industry showed significant increases. The latest three months, November to January, show an increase of 4 per cent compared with 6½ per cent in the same period a year ago.

Higher prices for most items of manufactured foods caused an increase of 1 per cent in the provisional price index for this sector. The increase of 4¾ per cent in the most recent three months followed rises of less than 2½ per cent in the two previous three month periods.

The rate of inflation for the output of manufactured products measured over a 12-month period has continued to fall. The rate of 18½ per cent for the 12 months ending in January shows a substantial decrease from the figure of 20¼ per cent for the period ending in December 1975.

Input prices

The provisional index for materials and fuel purchased by manufacturing industry rose by ¾ per cent to 260.4 in January.

Further price rises for potatoes and home-landed fish were mainly responsible for January's increase of 1½ per cent in the index of materials and fuel purchased by the food manufacturing industry.

The increase of ½ per cent in the provisional index for materials purchased by manufacturing industry other than the food, drink and tobacco industries reflected small price changes for a wide range of imported materials. This index rose by 2¼ per cent in the three months, November to January, compared with an increase of 6½ per cent in the previous three months.

Notes

Many firms in some industrial sectors review their prices in the first month of each quarter, and the effect is most marked in the first quarter of the year. In these circumstances it is necessary to make comparisons of periods 12 months apart to bring out changes in the underlying rate of inflation.

Owing to exceptional circumstances following the 1 October increase in crude oil prices, there is still insufficient information available to enable the Department of Energy to provide a firm figure for the 'time of order' index for crude oil in October. As a result several of the index numbers of materials purchased are still provisional from October.

1970 = 100

	Oct.	Nov.	Dec. p	Jan. p
Output prices (home sales)				
All manufactured products	197.0	198.9	201.5	204.9
Products of manufacturing industry other than food, drink and tobacco industries	203.4	205.1	207.7	211.4
Products of the food manufacturing industries	204.3	208.1	211.6	213.9
Prices of materials and fuel purchased				
By manufacturing industry	251.7 p	256.2 p	258.4	260.4
Materials	256.6 p	261.5 p	263.9	266.0
Coal, gas and electricity	204.4	205.3	205.9	207.0
By manufacturing industry other than food, drink and tobacco industries	267.6 p	269.4 p	272.3	273.6
Materials	276.6 p	278.5 p	281.7	283.1
By food manufacturing industries	217.3	227.8	229.0	232.6

p = provisional.

The full article and tables will be published later.

Retail sales in December 1975

Volume

The final seasonally adjusted index of the volume of retail sales in December is 107.0 (1971 = 100), close to the provisional estimate of 106½.

While the December figure is a little above the level of recent months, trade may have been influenced by changes to the timing of annual 'sales'.

In the fourth quarter of 1975 sales were 1½ per cent below the average of the second and third quarters of 1975 (a period which includes most, if not all, of the lower level of trade offsetting the high

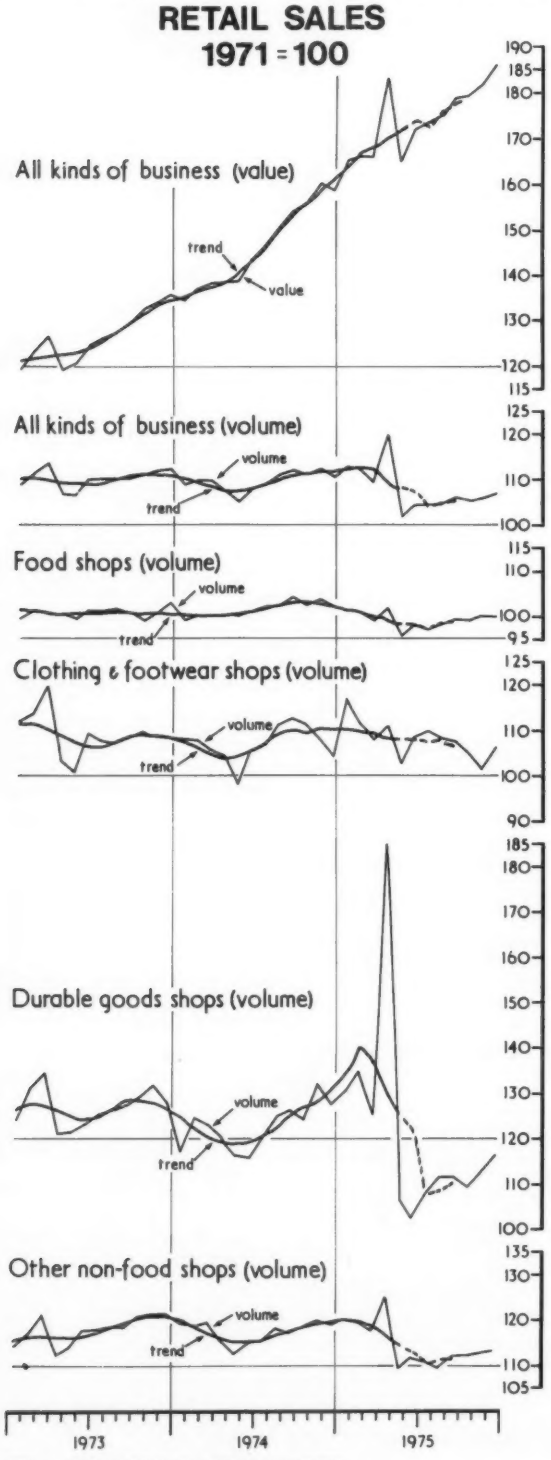


TABLE 1 Volume of retail sales seasonally adjusted

Index numbers of sales per week (average 1971 prices) 1971 = 100

(Sales in 1971 £ million Provisional estimates)	All kinds of business (15,895)	Food shops (6,693)	Non-food shops Total (9,202)	Clothing and footwear shops (2,314)	Durable goods shops (1,801)	Other non-food shops (†) (5,087)
1971	100.0	100.0	100.0	100	100	100
1972	105.8	101.5	109.0	105	115	109
1973	110.7	101.0	117.7	109	127	118
1974	109.9	101.8	115.9	107	123	117
1975	107.9	99.3	114.2	108	121	115
1973 1st quarter	111.6 r	100.8	119.4 r	115 r	130	117 r
2nd quarter	108.6 r	100.9 r	114.2 r	105	123 r	115
3rd quarter	110.7 r	101.2 r	117.6 r	108	127	119 r
4th quarter	111.7 r	101.1 r	119.4 r	109	129 r	121
1974 1st quarter	109.6 r	100.2 r	116.4 r	107	122	119
2nd quarter	107.8 r	101.1 r	112.6 r	104 r	118	115 r
3rd quarter	111.2 r	103.0 r	117.2 r	110 r	125 r	118 r
4th quarter	111.3 r	102.8 r	117.5 r	107 r	128	119
1975 1st quarter	111.3 r	101.1 r	118.6 r	111 r	129 r	118 r
2nd quarter	108.9 r	98.6 r	116.3 r	108	130 r	116 r
3rd quarter	105.5 r	97.9 r	111.0 r	108 r	111	112 r
4th quarter	105.8	99.4	110.4	105	112	112
1974 October	111.3 r	102.5 r	117.7 r	111	125 r	118
November	112 3 r	103.5 r	118.7 r	108	130 r	119 r
December *	110.5 r	102.4	116.4 r	103 r	127 r	118 r
1975 January *	112.8 r	101.9 r	120.7 r	115 r	128 r	121 r
February	111.6 r	101.2 r	119.1 r	112	132 r	118 r
March *	109.5 r	100.3 r	116.1 r	107 r	128 r	116 r
April	120.0 r	100.8 r	134.0 r	110 r	186 r	127 r
May	103.7 r	97.5 r	108.2 r	105 r	107 r	110 r
June *	104.1 r	97.7 r	108.7 r	108 r	103 r	111 r
July	105.4 r	97.7 r	111.0 r	110	109 r	112 r
August	104.8 r	97.5 r	110.2 r	109 r	113 r	110 r
September *	106 1 r	98.6 r	111.6 r	106 r	112	114 r
October	104.8 r	98.5 r	109.3 r	106 r	108 r	111 r
November	105.2 r	99.6 r	109.3 r	102	111 r	112 r
December *	107.0	100.1	112.1	107	117	113
1975 July-Sept.	105.5	97.9	111.0	108	111	112
Oct.-Dec.	105.8	99.4	110.4	105	112	112
Percentage increase	0.3	1.5	−0.6	−3	1	—

TABLE 2 Value of retail sales seasonally adjusted

Index numbers of value of sales per week (current prices) 1971 = 100

(Sales in 1971 £ million Provisional estimates)	All kinds of business (15,895)	Food shops (6,693)	Non-food shops Total (9,202)	Clothing and footwear shops (2,314)	Durable goods shops (1,801)	Other non-food shops (†) (5,087)
1971	100.0	100.0	100.0	100	100	100
1972	112.0	108.9	114.2	112	118	114
1973	126.9	122.8	129.9	128	136	128
1974	146.7	144.5	148.2	149	143	150
1975	174.5	174.6	174.4	172	166	178
1973 1st quarter	123.4 r	115.6 r	129.1 r	130	138	126
2nd quarter	122.2 r	120.0 r	123.8 r	122 r	128	124 r
3rd quarter	128.0 r	124.5	130.5 r	128 r	136	129
4th quarter	134.0 r	131.2 r	136.1 r	134	141	135 r
1974 1st quarter	136.6 r	134.6	138.1 r	139	134 r	139
2nd quarter	141.0 r	139.9 r	141.7 r	142 r	136 r	144
3rd quarter	150.9 r	147.9	153.1 r	157	147 r	154 r
4th quarter	158.2 r	155.7 r	160.0 r	159	155 r	162 r
1975 1st quarter	165.8 r	162.5 r	168.2 r	170 r	162 r	169 r
2nd quarter	173.7 r	172.3 r	174.8 r	168 r	177 r	177
3rd quarter	177.0 r	178.7 r	175.7 r	175 r	161 r	181 r
4th quarter	182.1	186.0	179.2	173	166	187
1974 October	155.7 r	152.5 r	158.0 r	162 r	149 r	159 r
November	159.8 r	157.2 r	161.7 r	160 r	159 r	163 r
December *	158.9 r	157.2 r	160.2 r	155	157	164
1975 January *	165.9 r	159.8 r	170.3 r	174 r	160 r	172 r
February	165.7 r	161.9 r	168.4 r	172 r	165 r	168 r
March *	165.9 r	165.7 r	166.0 r	165 r	163 r	167 r
April	183.9 r	170.4 r	193.8 r	170 r	236 r	189 r
May	166.9 r	171.1 r	163.8 r	163	151 r	169
June *	171.1 r	174.7 r	168.4 r	171 r	150	174 r
July	175.3 r	176.3 r	174.5 r	176	160 r	179 r
August	175.8	178.3 r	174.0 r	176 r	160 r	178
September *	179.2 r	180.9 r	177.9 r	173 r	162 r	186 r
October	177.8 r	181.0 r	175.5 r	173 r	158 r	183 r
November	180.8 r	185.9 r	177.1 r	168 r	165 r	186 r
December *	186.4	190.2	183.8	178	173	190
1975 July-Sept.	177.0	178.7	175.7	175	161	181
Oct.-Dec.	182.1	186.0	179.2	173	166	187
Percentage increase	2.9	4.1	2.0	−1	3	3

r = Revision (see notes below).
(†) Including department stores and mail order businesses.

The indices for all shops, food shops and total non-food shops are shown to the first decimal place to help interpretation, but should not be regarded as necessarily accurate to the final digit. The best indication of the recent trend is normally obtained by comparing the average index for the latest three months with the average for the immediately preceding three months but month to month fluctuations may sometimes make it preferable to average two or four months.

When using the volume figures, it should be borne in mind that, when price increases are large, the various problems associated with revaluation of the value series to constant prices become more acute. Thus, the relative accuracy with which volume changes have been measured is likely to have been reduced in recent periods.

The monthly periods consist of four weeks except those marked * which are of five weeks. The December 1975 sales period was the five weeks from 30 November 1975 to 3 January 1976. The corresponding period in 1974 was the five weeks from 24 November 1974 to 28 December 1974.

The seasonally adjusted series include, where appropriate, adjustments to make allowance for the inclusion of an extra week in the January 1975 trading period. (See Technical Note in *Trade and Industry* of 14 March 1975.)

Many of the figures included in the tables have been revised since the last article. The revisions, which are generally comparatively small, have been made for the following reasons:

a New seasonal adjustments have been calculated for the four broad kinds of business - food shops, clothing and footwear shops, durable goods shops and other non-food shops – for both the value and volume series. As before, the series for all kinds of business and for non-food shops are derived by weighting together the appropriate component series. (The figures affected relate to 1973, 1974 and 1975).

b The seasonally adjusted figures have been revised to bring the total for the year into line with the totals of the unadjusted figures. These revisions usually have to be made at the end of the year because the seasonally adjusted figures do not, as a rule, add up to the recorded totals (only 1975 is affected).

c Minor changes have been made to the 'extra week' adjustments, referred to above (only 1975 is affected).

The revised figures have not yet been incorporated in the charts.

The press notice giving the *provisional* estimates of the seasonally adjusted index of the volume of retail sales for January and the increase in the value of sales compared with a year earlier will be published later this month.

sales in April) and were 5 per cent less than the average level reached in the fourth quarter of 1974 and the first quarter of 1975.

For the main components of total trade, the average level of sales by food shops in the fourth quarter was 1 per cent above that of the second and third quarters of 1975. But sales by clothing and footwear shops were 3 per cent down, sales by durable goods shops, which were most affected by the April Budget measures, were 7 per cent down, and sales by 'other non-food shops', which include department stores and mail-order businesses, were 2 per cent down.

In 1975 as a whole, the volume of total trade was 2 per cent lower than in 1974.

Value

Based on non-seasonally adjusted data, the value of total retail sales in December was 15 per cent higher than in December 1974. In 1975 as a whole, the value of sales was 19 per cent higher than in 1974.

Hire purchase and other instalment credit business

Finance houses and retailers advanced £270 million in new instalment credit agreements in December (seasonally adjusted), bringing total advances for the fourth quarter of 1975 to £775 million, 4 per cent more than on average in the second and third quarters. Advances by finance houses showed only a small increase; the main increase was concentrated in lending by retailers. In 1975 as a whole the value of lending by finance houses was about 16 per cent higher than in 1974 and lending by retailers was about 20 per cent higher, both at current prices.

The average weekly value of retailers' instalment credit sales increased by about 5 per cent in the fourth quarter compared with the second and third quarters of 1975. Durable goods shops increased their credit sales by about 4 per cent between these two periods, while department stores' sales and other credit retailers' sales increased by 4 per cent and 5 per cent, respectively.

The debt outstanding to retailers and finance houses on all current instalment credit agreements increased slightly in December although in the fourth quarter as a whole it decreased. Debt to finance houses decreased in each quarter of 1975 while debt to retailers increased slightly. At the end of the year the total amount outstanding was £2,320 million (*not* seasonally adjusted), almost the same as at the end of 1974.

The seasonally adjusted figures for 1975 have been revised to bring the totals for the year into line with the totals of the unadjusted figures. Some revision, either upward or downward, usually has to be made at the end of the year, because the seasonally adjusted figures do not as a rule add up precisely to the recorded totals.

TABLE 1 Hire-purchase and other instalment credit business seasonally adjusted

£ million

		Total		Finance Houses†		Retailers‡	
		New credit extended	Change in debt	New credit extended	Change in debt	New credit extended	Change in debt
1971		2,053	240	990	165	1,063	75
1972		2,497	424	1,222	296	1,275	128
1973		2,871	438	1,453	332	1,418	106
1974		2,517	−155	1,037	−160	1,480	5
1975		2,987	−10	1,201	−55	1,786	45
1974	1st quarter	576	−68	232	−57	344	−11
	2nd quarter	614	−43	255	−45	359	2
	3rd quarter	648	−15	270	−28	378	13
	4th quarter	679	−29	280	−30	399	1
1975	1st quarter	722 r	−14 r	289 r	−18 r	433	4
	2nd quarter	754 r	11 r	299 r	−15 r	455	26
	3rd quarter	736 r	3 r	305 r	−12 r	431 r	15 r
	4th quarter	775	−10	308	−10	467	–
1975	April	271	26	102	—	169	26
	May	246 r	−11 r	101 r	−11 r	145	—
	June	237 r	−4 r	96 r	−4 r	141	—
	July	245 r	−9 r	103 r	−13 r	142	4
	August	235	−4	93	−10	142	6
	September	256 r	16 r	109	11	147 r	5 r
	October	255 r	−12 r	103 r	−11	152 r	−1 r
	November	250 r	−7 r	91	−3	159 r	−4 r
	December	270	9	114	4	156	5
1975	July-Sept.	736	3	305	−12	431	15
	Oct.-Dec.	775	−10	308	−10	467	–
Percentage increase		5		1		8	
Debt outstanding at 31 December 1975 (unadjusted)		—	2,320	—	1,423	—	897

† Direct business only: ie excluding agreements block discounted with finance houses by retailers.

‡ Durable goods shops, department stores and 'other instalment credit retailers'. For further definitions see footnote to Table 2.

TABLE 2 Retailers' instalment credit sales seasonally adjusted

Index numbers of value of sales per week (current prices) 1966 = 100

		Total†	Durable goods shops	Department stores	Other instalment credit retailers‡
H.P. and other instalment credit sales in 1966 §					
£ million		(862)	(327)	(46)	(489)
1971		134	138	138	131
1972		158	162	157	155
1973		176	165	181	183
1974		184	132	193	217
1975		217	161	231	254
1974	1st quarter	171	118	176	207
	2nd quarter	178	126	183	212
	3rd quarter	188	134	208	222
	4th quarter	198	152	211	228
1975	1st quarter	211	159	233	244
	2nd quarter	222	172	224	256 r
	3rd quarter	209 r	148	229	249 r
	4th quarter	227	167	236	266
1975	April	253	238	242	264
	May	211	150	223	251 r
	June*	206	136	210	252
	July	206	151	237	240
	August	207 r	147 r	207	246
	September*	214 r	145	240	258 r
	October	222 r	151	238	268 r
	November	231 r	165 r	232 r	275 r
	December*	228	181	239	258
1975	July-Sept. av.	209	148	229	249
	Oct.-Dec. av.	227	167	236	266
Percentage increase		8	13	3	7

† Durable goods shops, department stores and 'other instalment credit retailers'.

‡ General stores (other than department stores), general mail order houses and co-operative societies' non-durable goods departments.

§ Excluding sales against checks issued by other organisations.

The monthly periods for retailers consist of four weeks except those marked * which are of five weeks. The period covered by December 1975 sales was the five weeks from 30 November 1975 to 3 January 1976. The corresponding period in 1974 was from 24 November 1974 to 28 December 1974.

Deliveries of man-made fibres in the fourth quarter of 1975

Total deliveries of man-made fibres in the fourth quarter of 1975 were 30 per cent more than in the fourth quarter of 1974. Deliveries of continuous filament yarns to the home trade were 19 per cent more than in the fourth quarter of 1974, while deliveries of staple fibre were 14 per cent more. In the year 1975 total deliveries of man-made fibres were 12 per cent less than in 1974.

Deliveries of staple fibre (*a*)

Thousand metric tons

	Total	Home					Exports (*b*)
		Total	Cotton spinning	Wool spinning	Flax spinning	Other systems and sundries	
1968	282.4	173.1	52.3	58.2	26.3	36.3	109.3
1969	299.3	169.2	51.1	51.5	28.0	38.6	130.1
1970	329.4	191.4	57.6	57.1	31.5	45.2	138.1
1971	338.7	185.9	59.6	50.1	29.3	46.9	152.9
1972	363.9	186.4	49.5	33.4	103.5		177.5
1973	434.8	235.4	62.8	56.0	116.7		199.4
1974	346.1	190.4	51.4	51.1	87.9		155.7
1975	283.2	158.8	39.4	50.1	69.3		124.4
1973 1st qtr.	106.6	56.7	14.9	12.0	29.8		50.0
2nd qtr.	108.1	62.2	16.5	14.9	30.9		45.9
3rd qtr.	103.9	53.4	14.3	12.7	26.5		50.5
4th qtr.	116.2	63.1	17.1	16.4	29.6		53.1
1974 1st qtr.	103.8	48.3	12.6	13.0	22.6		55.5
2nd qtr.	103.2	59.7	16.5	14.9	28.3		43.5
3rd qtr.	83.4	45.1	11.5	12.1	21.5		38.3
4th qtr.	55.8	37.3	10.9	11.0	15.4		18.4
1975 1st qtr.	72.8	36.5	8.6	12.2	15.7		36.3
2nd qtr.	75.8	43.6	10.4	14.0	19.2		32.2
3rd qtr.	58.3	36.1	9.5	9.9	16.7		22.2
4th qtr.	76.4	42.6	10.9	13.9	17.7		33.8

(*a*) The classification of end uses was revised in January 1972, and the figures for deliveries to individual industries from the first quarter 1972 are not comparable with those for earlier years.

(*b*) The figures refer to deliveries from the industry direct for export and may differ from the totals recorded as exports in the monthly trade accounts.

Production of man-made fibres

In the three months ended December 1975 the volume of production of man-made fibres, seasonally adjusted, was estimated to have been

Man-made fibre production

Thousand metric tons

	Total	Continuous filament (singles)	Staple fibre
1968	539.1	241 8	297.4
1969	668.2	252.5	301.5
1970	699.4	257 6	341.9
1971	613.1	276 4	336.7
1972	626.5	264.0	362.5
1973	730.8	305.6	425.3
1974	627.6	271.0	356.6
1975	562.5	246.5	316.0
1974 1st quarter	174.0	69.9	104.1
2nd quarter	175.1	71.7	103.4
3rd quarter	149.9	67.1	82.7
4th quarter	128.6	62.3	66.3
1975 1st quarter	129.1	56.4	72.7
2nd quarter	148.8	61.9	86.9
3rd quarter	134.1	58.5	75.7
4th quarter	150.4	69.7	80.7
1974 July	55.6	22.8	32.8
August	48.5	21.3	27.2
September	45.9	23.1	22 8
October	50.7	25.2	25.5
November	43.1	20.7	22.4
December	34.7	16.4	18.3
1975 January	42.1	18.2	24.0
February	42.6	17.6	25.0
March	44.3	20.6	23.7
April	48.1	20.0	28.1
May	53.6	22.3	31.4
June	47.0	19.6	27.4
July	47.0	19.3	27.7
August	40.8	17.9	22.8
September	46.3	21.2	25.1
October	55.1	24.0	31.1
November	49.1	23.6	25.5
December	46.2	22.1	24.1

Deliveries of continuous filament yarns (*a*)

Thousand metric tons

	Total	Home						Exports as yarn (*b*)
		Total	Broad weaving	Carpets and rugs	Weft knitting	Warp knitting	Industrial purposes (tyres etc.)	Other purposes
1968	238.4	188.9	35.3	4.7	54.9	32.0	52.2	9.8	49.4
1969	242.7	193.6	33.7	5.5	51.9	35.3	58.8	8.4	49.1
1970	254.8	198.1	28.2	7.1	63.7	38.0	53.3	7.8	56.7
1971	261.4	198.7	25.3	8.7	69.9	41.4	43.5	9.9	62.7

	Total	Home						Exports as yarn (*b*)
		Total	Broad weaving	Carpets and rugs	Warp knitting	Industrial purposes (tyres, etc.)	Other purposes	Textured or texturing for all purposes other than carpets or industrial
1972	270.1	198.7	25.1	13.4	40.4	40.8	10.0	69.0	71.4
1973	313.6	227.5	25.8	19.4	46.6	45.4	13.0	77.4	86.1
1974	259.4	188.6	22.3	14.1	35.8	35.1	11.9	69.3	70.8
1975	246.9	185.8	21.7	17.3	33.1	35.4	10.5	67.8	61.1
1973 1st quarter	82.4	59.0	6.8	4.5	12.3	11.7	3.0	20.7	23.4
2nd quarter	81.8	60.2	6.5	5.3	12.2	12.6	3.4	20.2	21.7
3rd quarter	71.1	50.2	5.7	4.4	10.5	9.9	2.9	16.8	20.8
4th quarter	78.3	58.1	6.9	5.3	11.6	11.1	3.6	19.6	20.2
1974 1st quarter	72.7	50.9	4.8	4.0	10.8	9.0	3.1	19.2	21.7
2nd quarter	71.9	51.8	6.2	4.4	9.9	9.6	3.2	18.5	20.1
3rd quarter	59.4	43.6	5.7	3.2	8.4	7.4	3.0	15.9	15.8
4th quarter	55.4	42.3	5.6	2.5	6.7	9.1	2.6	15.7	13.1
1975 1st quarter	58.1	43.8	5.3	3.6	7.9	9.1	2.0	15.9	14.4
2nd quarter	62.7	48.2	6.3	4.3	8.6	9.2	2.5	17.3	14.6
3rd quarter	57.5	43.5	4.8	3.7	8.0	8.1	2.8	16.2	14.0
4th quarter	68.6	50.3	5.3	5.8	8.6	9.0	3.1	18.4	18.2

(*a*) The classification of end uses was revised in January 1968 and the figures for deliveries to individual industries 1968 to 1971 might not be fully comparable with those for earlier years. From January 1972 a further reclassification was introduced: deliveries of textured yarns and yarns for texturing, which were previously included in the figures for individual industries, are shown separately from the first quarter 1972.

(*b*) The figures refer to deliveries from the industry direct for export and may differ from the totals recorded as exports in the monthly trade accounts.

10 per cent more than in the three months ended in September 1975. Total production by weight of man-made fibres in the year 1975 was 10 per cent lower than in 1974; output of continuous filament decreased by 9 per cent and staple fibre decreased by 11 per cent.

Index of the volume of production 1970 = 100

		Actual	Seasonally adjusted
1968		87	
1969		92	
1970		100	
1971		106	
1972		107	
1973		127	
1974		111	
1975		101	
1974	1st quarter	120	118
	2nd quarter	119	116
	3rd quarter	109	116
	4th quarter	96	95
1975	1st quarter	92	91
	2nd quarter	104	101
	3rd quarter	96	101
	4th quarter	112	111
1974	July	113	119
	August	106	118
	September	109	110
	October	116	110
	November	99	97
	December	74	77
1975	January	85	83
	February	95	97
	March	96	93
	April	103	102
	May	111	109
	June	98	93
	July	95	100
	August	89	99
	September	103	105
	October	116	110
	November	114	112
	December	105	110

The actual figures allow for differences in the length of calendar months but not for holidays or other seasonal variations. The seasonally adjusted figures are based on the seasonal pattern up to the end of 1974, and may be subject to slight revision when the complete figures for 1975 are incorporated.

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Quarterly analysis of man-made fibre production

Production by weight of synthetic fibres in the fourth quarter of 1975

Analysis of man-made fibre production Thousand metric tons

		Total		Continuous filament		Staple fibre	
		Synthetic	Viscose +acetate	Synthetic	Viscose +acetate	Synthetic	Viscose +acetate
1968		268.4	270.8	144.3	97.5	124.1	173.3
1969		291.4	262.5	155.9	96.6	135.5	166.0
1970		336.9	262.5	166.6	90.9	170.3	171.6
1971		357.3	255.7	191.2	85.2	166.1	170.6
1972		373.9	252.6	196.4	67.6	177.5	185.0
1973		453.9	277.0	233.0	72.6	220.9	204.4
1974		396.1	231.5	200.3	70.7	195.8	160.8
1975		361.1	201.4	184.0	62.5	177.1	138.9
1973	1st quarter	111.8	71.7	59.7	18.4	52.1	53.3
	2nd quarter	116.2	70.0	60.6	18.8	55.6	51.2
	3rd quarter	107.9	63.5	54.1	16.5	53.8	47.0
	4th quarter	118.0	71.9	58.5	19.0	59.5	52.9
1974	1st quarter	105.3	68.7	52.4	17.6	52.9	51.1
	2nd quarter	104.6	70.5	51.3	20.4	53.4	50.1
	3rd quarter	101.5	48.4	48.9	18.2	52.5	30.2
	4th quarter	84.7	43.9	47.8	14.5	36.9	29.4
1975	1st quarter	78.3	50.8	41.7	14.7	36.6	36.1
	2nd quarter	93.5	55.3	45.9	16.0	47.6	39.3
	3rd quarter	87.2	46.9	43.6	14.9	43.6	32.0
	4th quarter	102.1	48.3	52.8	16.9	49.2	31.4

The heading 'Viscose + acetate' includes triacetate.

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was 21 per cent more than in the corresponding period of 1974 while production of viscose and acetate fibres was 10 per cent more. Within the total for synthetic fibres, production of continuous filament yarns increased by 10 per cent and staple fibre increased by 33 per cent. Under the heading 'viscose and acetate', production of continuous filament yarn increased by 17 per cent and staple fibres increased by 7 per cent compared with the fourth quarter 1974.

In the year 1975 production by weight of synthetic fibres was 9 per cent less than in 1974 while production of viscose and acetate was 13 per cent less.

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British Film Fund Agency returns

The British Film Fund Agency has authorised the publication of the following information for the four weeks ended 27 December 1975.

Distributors' Earnings submitted	£
Low cost films:	
Eligible (after multiplying by 2½)	38,240
Not eligible for 2½ times rental	5,524
High cost films (including newsreels after multiplying by 2½)	220,634
	264,398
Films under 3,000 ft (after multiplying by 2½)	15,752
	280,150
Levy collections paid to the Agency by HM Customs and Excise to 13 January 1976 including an estimate of collections approximately covering entertainments for four weeks ended 27 December 1975.	120,000

The second interim allocation for the nineteenth year will be at the rate of 42 per cent.

Registrations of British, Community and foreign films

The following are details of films registered by the Department of Trade under the Films Acts 1960 to 1970, as amended by the European Communities Act 1972, during the week ended Friday 6 February 1976

BR/E indicates that the film is a British quota film, EC that the film is a quota film. The date which forms part of the registration number of each is the date on which quota life of the film expires.

Title of film	Registered no.	Playing time minutes	Date of registration	Registered in the name of	Maker's name
			BRITISH		
Queen At The Rainbow	BR/E 38445/7/2/81	33	5 February	Cinema International Corporation (UK)	Trident Audio Productions Ltd.
House Of Mortal Sin	BR/E 38446/7/2/81	104	5 February	Columbia-Warner Distributors Ltd.	Peter Walker (Heritage) Ltd.
Copter Kids	BR/E 38447/7/2/81	57	6 February	Children's Film Foundation Ltd.	Pacesetter Productions Ltd.
Movietone News 2435	BR/E 38343/7/2/81	8	6 February	British Movietonews Ltd.	British Movietonews Ltd.
			FOREIGN		
Master Gunfighter	F 38441	110	5 February	Columbia-Warner Distributors Ltd.	Avondale Productions Inc., California
Operation Daybreak	F 38442	119	5 February	Columbia-Warner Distributors Ltd.	Warner Brothers Productions Inc., California
My Sweet Lady	F 38443	94	5 February	Cinema International Corporation (UK)	Universal Pictures, California
The Mack	F 38444	109	5 February	Scotia-Barber Distributors Ltd.	Harvey Bernhard Enterprises Inc., New York

Amendement to the Register

The title of the film 'Big Zapper' (BR/E 37124/18/11/78), registered on 14 November 1973, has been amended to 'The Sex Life Of A Female Private Eye'.

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A = annually M = monthly Q = quarterly 6M = every six months.

Title	Last published
Air transport: trade by air (6M)	28 Nov. 1975
Balance of payments:	
current account (M)	23 Jan. 1976
trends in invisible transactions (Q)	17 Oct. 1975
(*see also* Overseas trade of the UK)	
Bankruptcies *see* Insolvencies	
Business names and limited partnerships (A)	30 Jan. 1975
Capital expenditure: manufacturing, distributive and service industries (Q)	9 Jan. 1976
Catering trades turnover (M)	16 Jan. 1976
Census of production (A)	19 Dec. 1974
(amendment)	16 Jan. 1975
Chemicals industry activity (Q)	2 Jan. 1976
Companies:	
acquisitions and mergers (Q)	21 Nov. 1975
insolvencies (Q)	6 Feb. 1976
liquidity (Q)	12 Dec. 1975
new registrations:	
Gt. Britain (M)	This week
N. Ireland (M)	6 Feb. 1976
rate of return on capital	24 Oct. 1975
Construction work overseas (A)	17 Oct. 1975
EEC economic indicators	6 Feb. 1976
Energy trends (M)	6 Feb. 1976
Engineering industries: sales and orders (M)	30 Jan. 1976
Film industry	
British Film Fund Agency returns (M)	This week
cinema admissions and takings (M)	6 Feb. 1976
overseas payments and earnings (A)	8 Aug. 1975
registrations of films (A)	30 Jan. 1976
Food:	
consumption levels (6M)	10 Oct. 1975
household consumption (Q)	16 Jan. 1976
Footwear industry: production, orders and deliveries (M)	30 Jan. 1976
Foreign exchange: official reserves (M)	This week
Foreign trade: industrial countries' production and trade (Q)	9 Jan. 1976
(*see also* Overseas trade of the UK)	
Hire-purchase business (M)	This week
Industrial production:	
index numbers (M)	30 Jan. 1976
N. Ireland index (M)	21 Nov. 1975
Wales	16 Jan. 1976
Insurance companies: investments and assets (A)	22 Aug. 1975
Investment:	
book values of overseas direct investments (every 3 years)	15 Nov. 1973
industry's investment intentions (3 times a year)	9 Jan. 1976
investment and earnings overseas (A)	14 Mar. 1975
(amendment)	21 Mar. 1975
Man-made fibres:	
deliveries (Q)	This week
production (M)	This week
production: quarterly analysis (Q)	This week
Metal working machine tools: sales and orders (M)	19 Dec. 1975
Motor industry:	
car and commercial vehicle production (M)	30 Jan. 1976
estimated figures (M)	This week
motor trade turnover (Q)	21 Nov. 1975
Office development permits (Q)	21 Nov. 1975
Overseas trade of the UK:	
direct exporters and credit terms (A)	11 Apr. 1975
analysis of trends (Q)	5 Dec. 1975
(*see also* Balance of payments)	
Pension funds: investments and assets (A)	22 Aug. 1975
Regional development grants (Q)	30 Jan. 1976
Regional selective assistance (M)	23 Jan. 1976
Retail prices index (M)	23 Jan. 1976
Retail trades:	
sales (M)	This week
provisional figures (M)	23 Jan. 1976
sales, N. Ireland (M)	2 Jan. 1976
stocks (M)	23 Jan. 1976
Royalties: overseas transactions (A)	11 Apr. 1975
Shipping: nationality of vessels in UK sea-borne trade (A)	23 Jan. 1975
Steel consumption and stocks (Q)	2 Jan. 1976
Stocks:	
manufacturers' and distributors' quarterly figures (Q)	9 Jan. 1976
manufacturers' stocks: monthly estimates (M)	30 Jan. 1976
retail (M)	28 Nov. 1975
Television: overseas payments and earnings (A)	8 Aug. 1975
Textiles:	
activity in the industry (Q)	16 Jan. 1976
carpet sales (M)	30 Jan. 1976
cotton industry production (M)	30 Jan. 1976
hosiery production (M)	30 Jan. 1976
made-up clothing: orders and deliveries (M)	6 Feb. 1976
wholesale houses' sales (M)	30 Jan. 1976
wool exports (Q)	28 Nov. 1975
wool output (M)	30 Jan. 1976
Tourism:	
foreign visitor arrivals (M)	30 Jan. 1976
overseas travel and tourism (Q)	23 Jan. 1976
Wholesale prices:	
average prices of selected commodities (A)	13 June 1975
index numbers (M)	This week

Departmental organisations, etc.

Subjects	Last published
British commercial representations overseas	3 Oct. 1975
Customs notices of interest to exporters	This week
ECGD local offices	This week
Guide to Departments	21 Nov. 1975
Official Receivers' offices	This week
Programme of trade promotions	16 Jan. 1976
Release dates of economic statistics	30 Jan. 1976

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Government Sales

Ministry of Defence

24 February 1976 Coin and Medal Plant, Machine Tools and Furniture

Location: The Tower Hotel, St. Katherine's Way, London E1 9LD

Auctioneers: Fuller Horsey Sons and Cassell (Dept. L), 52 Bow Lane, London EC4M 9ET (tel. 01-248 7954)

The lots which are lying at The Royal Mint, Tower Hill, London EC3N 4DR, include power presses by Taylor and Callen (Model 581), Greenwood and Batley and Ralph Heaton, coin sorting, overlooking and barrell drying machines, spare mill rolls depth 23 in × width 24 in to depth 11 in × width 12⅝ in, 15 in × 72 in roll grinding, planing, boring, milling, drilling, grinding and slotting machines, centre lathes, billet shearing and cropping machines, annealing and salt bath furnaces, weighing machines, scales, trucks, stillages, baled cotton waste, white metal and lead ingots, phosphor bronze, new stores and plant spares, overalls, personal clothing lockers, office furniture, and numerous other effects.

26 February 1976 Miscellaneous Stores

Location: The Post House, Herbert Walker Avenue, Southampton SO1 0HJ

Auctioneers: Richard Austin and Wyatt (Dept. L), 79 High Street, Fareham, Hants PO16 7AX (tel. 03292-4211)

The lots which are lying in various depots in Hampshire include two Coles 5-ton cranes, three towed scrapers, Caterpillar tractor, excavator crane, fork lift trucks and 65 machine tools. Binoculars, compressors, fire pumps, electrical and MT spares, tools, tyres, winches, aluminium, etc. 300 lots of furniture including bureaux, chairs, desks, lockers, settees, wardrobes and other items. 260 lots of clothing and textiles including blankets, bedspreads, carpets, jerseys, raincoats, rags, trousers, boots and shoes and a large collection of Service items.

3 March 1976 Furniture

Location: RAF Stafford, Sandon Road, Stafford

Auctioneer: Arnold and Son (Dept. L), 13 Market Place, Burton-upon-Trent, Staffs DE14 1HD (tel. 0283-64657)

A small sale of approximately 400 lots of mainly household furniture mostly lotted as single pieces or in small quantities and include dining suites, three-piece suites, occasional, dining, card, side, etc., tables. Dining, bedroom, fireside and easy chairs. Writing bureaux, bookcases, dressing tables, chests of drawers, beds, etc.

4 March 1976 Miscellaneous Stores

Location: The Golden Lion Hotel, King Street, Stirling

Auctioneers: Dixon and Wallace (Dept. L), Bank Buildings, Graham Square, Glasgow G31 1AW (tel. 041-554 2447/8/9)

Service clothing which include denim and BD trousers, blouses, jackets, raincoats, etc. Carpets, rugs, blankets, bedspreads, mattresses and scrap textiles. A large quantity of furniture, kitchen utensils and crockery. Industrial electrical and electronic assemblies. MT spares and tyres, jacks, hand tools, safes, ferrous and non-ferrous scrap. Stop and wrist watches, binoculars, telescopes, photographic equipment, Johnston 40 hp outboard motors, paints and oils. Two Bedford coaches (30 seats), Austin 1800 saloons, Ford Transit crewbus, Land Rover, Austin 1-ton 4 × 4, Zwicky rotary road sweeper and Morris Mini saloon. Matbro, Windgrove and Rodgers and Conveyancer fork lift trucks, Taylor Jumbo mobile crane (5-ton), Herbert Morris portable crane, Broomwade and Cordex air compressors, Baromix cement mixer, Wadkins saw sharpening machine, Edgwick precision tool grinder, Edwards swing beam folding machine, Edwards circle cutting machine, Phillips welding plant, Churchill, Keighly and Startrite lathes and Kitchen and Wade flanging machine.

Catalogues for the above sales which give details of the lots, conditions of sale, viewing times, etc., are available from the auctioneers from two weeks before and up to the day of the sale. Price: Royal Mint 25p, others 10p (postal orders only).

Catalogues of Government Publications

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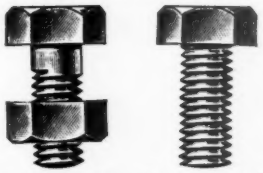

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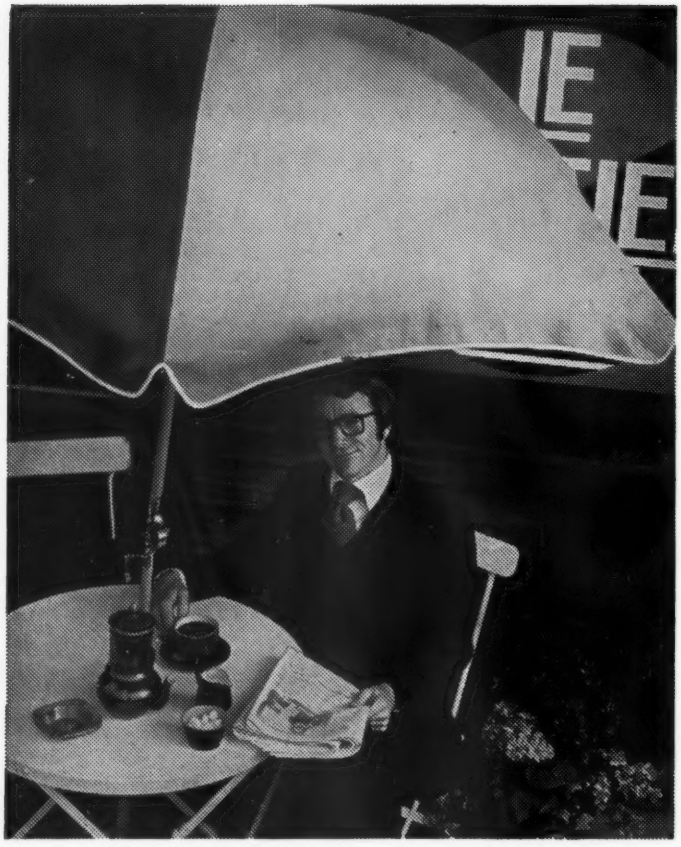

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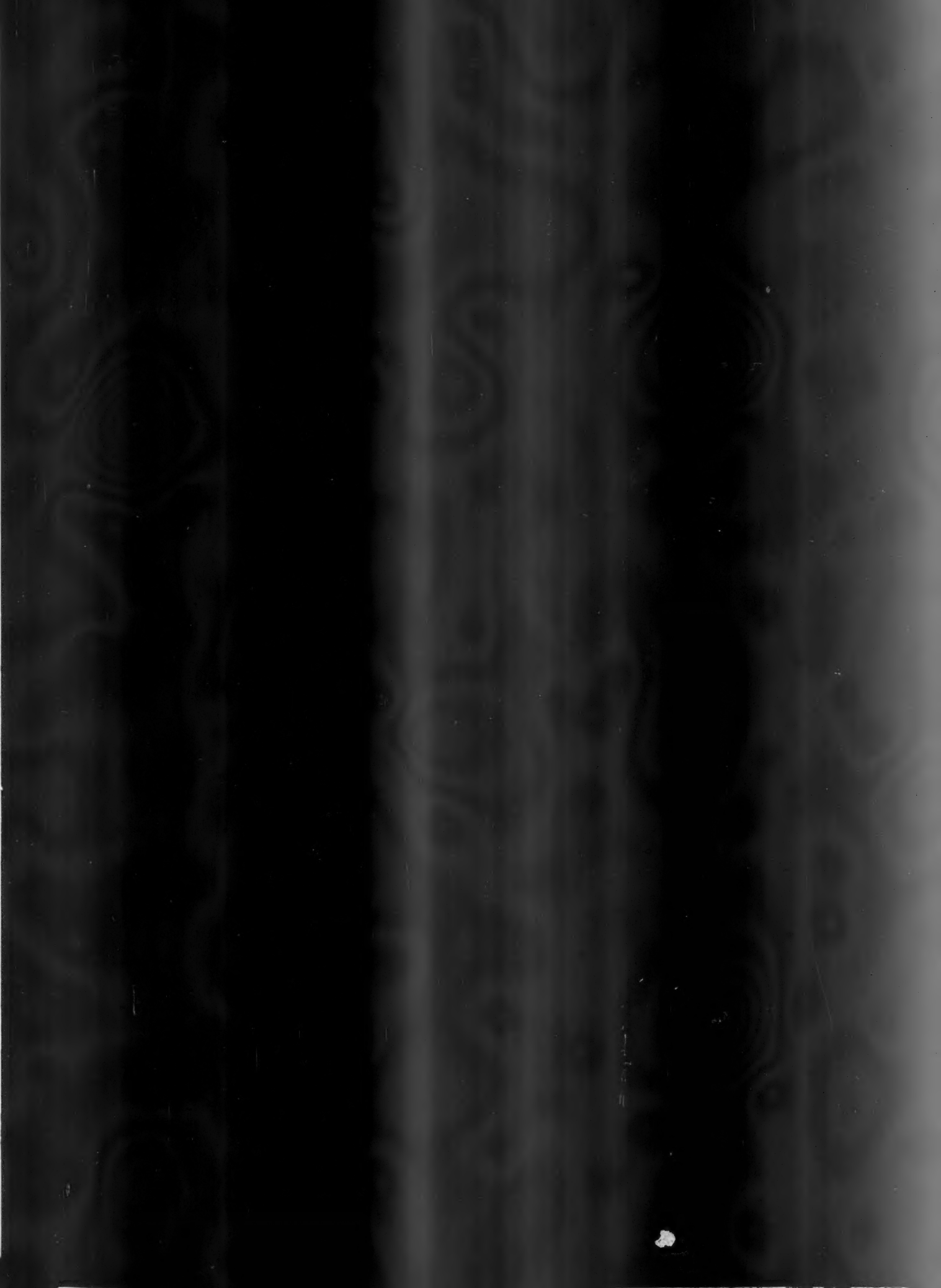
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